

Kang Karpo Peak, constantly shrouded in cloud and mist, remains mysterious and elusive, but the spectacular view is worth waiting for. **Page 16**



"If they were innocent, they would not worry about the audit. Their violent reaction suggests the accounts must be bad." **Page 8**



The Year of French Culture in China brings a feast of French art and entertainment. Bon Appetit! **Page 9-12**



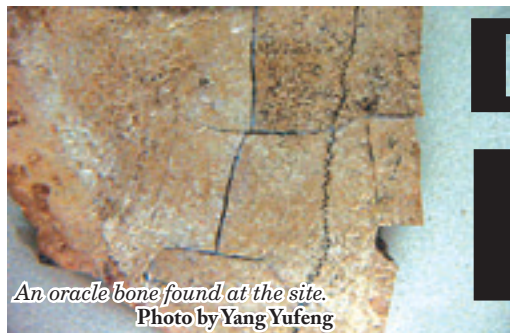
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An oracle bone found at the site.
Photo by Yang Yufeng

Digging up History

By Zhou Ying

Excavations began Sunday on a group of tombs in Shaanxi Province that archaeologists believe may be the burial place of the man on whom Confucius based his ideas on how an emperor should rule China.

The excavation work is on the No. 32 and No. 18 tombs of a tomb group that date back to the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC).

"The Western Zhou tombs represent the most significant find related to the Zhou Dynasty since the founding of new China," said Professor Zou Heng of Beijing University during a press conference at the site on Sunday. Zou is known as China's foremost archaeologist specializing on the Western Zhou Dynasty.

The tomb group is on Fenghuang Mountain, near Zhou Gong (Duke of Zhou) Temple in Qishan County, Shaanxi Province. A preliminary investigation of the site has been underway since March by a joint team from the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeology Research Institute and Beijing University.

Zhou Gong Temple, located seven kilometers from the county seat, was built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to commemorate Zhou Gong, the regent of the second emperor of the Western Zhou Dynasty and the man whose rule was the model for Confucius' teachings.

Li Boqian, director of the Archaeological Department of Beijing University, says the tomb group is of great significance for the research and study of the Zhou Dynasty, especially as it will fill a gap in the research of the Xia (2100-1600 BC), Shang (1600-1100 BC) and Zhou (1100-221 BC) dynasties.

Oracle bones point to tombs

Wu Tiancai, an expert on the protection of cultural relics from the Shaanxi Provincial Archaeology Research Institute told *Beijing Today* Tuesday, "Thanks to the discovery of two caves containing oracle bones at the end of last year, we subsequently found the Western Zhou tombs."

According to Wu, more than 900 oracle bone fragments were discovered in caves near where the tombs were later found. After over two months of careful study, 420 of the oracle bones were identified as being inscribed with characters.

Wu revealed that the content of the text referred to a variety of subjects, including military affairs and sacrificial rites. Moreover, there were four slates with characters reading "Zhou Gong."

"It is quite rare for so many oracle bone pieces from the Zhou Dynasty to be found in one location," Wu said,



Excavation begins on the No. 18 tomb at Fenghuang Mountain, Shaanxi.
Photo by Imaginechina

Zhou Gong

Otherwise known as Ji Dan, Zhou Gong served Zhouwu Wang, the first king of the Western Zhou Dynasty, and then acted as regent for seven years until Zhoucheng Wang came of age.

During his time as regent, he introduced the feudal system, formalized religious rites and composed music, thus laying the political and cultural foundations of the Chinese nation. Some 500 years later, Confucius modeled his teachings on Zhou Gong's humane and worldly style of rulership.

adding that the inscriptions would be of great help in unveiling the mysteries of the dynasty, as they referred to events which have not been previously documented.

However, Wu confessed that they were not sure yet whether the "Zhou Gong" inscriptions referred to the famous Zhou Gong himself or to one of his descendants.

According to Chong Jianrong, deputy head of the excavation team that has been conducting a preliminary investigation of the tombs since February, after the discovery of the caves containing the oracle bones, they began a "blanket study" of the surrounding area covering ten square kilometers.

"In May, we discovered the cemetery with 22 large-scale tombs. Of these, 10 have four tunnels, which distinguish them as the highest class of tombs in the Western Zhou Dynasty, equivalent to those of a king, and we also found 14 accompanying funeral pits," Chong said Tuesday at the site.

The team also found four tombs with three tunnels, four tombs with two tunnels and two with one tunnel, as well as more than 190 middle-scale tombs nearby. "None of us could help jumping with excitement when we found the tomb group!" Chong exclaimed.

Chong described the discoveries as an enormous stroke of good fortune. "The reason we are so excited is that we have never found any Zhou Dynasty imperial tombs before, even though some archeologists have dedicated their whole life to the search," he said.

The Western Zhou Dynasty represents an important period in Chinese history, marking the beginning of the feudal and traditional cultural system. However till now, there has been a lack of

artifacts from the period for archaeologists to study.

The best and the worst

When investigating a new site such as this, archaeologists always start with the tombs in the best and the worst condition. "The principle is to determine how well the tombs have weathered the ravages of time," Chong explained.

In recognition of the significance of the discovery, the State Cultural Relics Administration gave permission in June to excavate two of the tombs, the No. 32 and the No. 18 tombs.

"Do you see the two white lines on the escarpment on the right side?" Chong said, indicating the No. 32 tomb, "That's where one tunnel is located, and you can see that the grave is now even lower than the tunnel. That is the result of soil erosion over a long period of time."

He explained that the No. 32 tomb is only six meters below the surface, while the others are up to 14 meters deep. "Therefore we have to excavate this particular tomb as quickly as possible in order to preserve what is left," he said.

The condition of the No. 18 tomb, however, is a different story. The No. 18 tomb is one of the largest among the group, with four tunnels. The northern tunnel is 17.7 meters long, and the southern one is 4.5 meters long.

A group of locals from Qishan were clearing the topsoil from the two tombs with scoops and shovels under the supervision of members of the excavation team on Tuesday. According to Chong, they planned to spend about three days completing this task. The excavation of the two tombs is expected to be completed in early February next year.

As to the tombs possible occupants, there are a num-

ber of views. Some of the experts believe the frequent references to Zhou Gong on the oracle bones indicate that it is his family tomb.

"This is the first time a Western Zhou tomb has been found with four tunnels. This is evidence that they are the burial places of the highest ranking officials of the ancient dynasty. The occupants may even be the kings of the Western Zhou," Zhang Tinghao, director of the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Administration, said at the news conference.

Liu Yunhui, deputy director of Shaanxi Bureau of Cultural Relics, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday, however, "I think no one can give the right answer until we find some hard evidence. If everything goes smoothly, we will know in two months."

Professor Li Boqian explained that according to imperial records, Zhouwu Wang was buried in Bi, (what is now Duguo County, Xi'an), so no one expected Qishan County to be the location of the tombs of kings. "So I conclude that we should depend entirely on such literature, it may mislead us," he said.

Tomb Raiders

The excitement of the experts was tempered somewhat after finding that some of the tombs had been vandalized by tomb raiders.

Chong Jianrong revealed that there are three holes in the No. 32 tomb. "From examining the soil, we can tell that one of the three holes was dug around the time of Spring Festival this year," he said.

Chong said that there are more than ten similar caves on Fenghuang Mountain. "This is now the biggest and deepest among those we have found," he told *Beijing Today*, pointing to a large hole almost 10 meters deep.

Wu Tiancai added, "What angers us most is not that the tomb raiders steal those cultural relics, but they also destroy the underground foundations."

Li Hongxu, deputy director of the Qishan County Public Security Bureau, told *Beijing Today* Tuesday that the site was now being kept under close guard, "We have established several observation stations on the mountain. We will do our best to protect the cultural relics."

Liu Yuhui, deputy director of Shaanxi bureau of cultural relics told *Beijing Today* he believed the government should set up a system to encourage ordinary people to protect cultural relics. "For instance, five villagers from Baoji city, Shaanxi Province, were rewarded for protecting ancient bronzes that were discovered there last year. They are going to travel around France and Italy for ten days this November for free!"



Xinhua Photo

Trapped Miners in Henan Feared Dead

A senior work safety official said Thursday morning that there is little hope for 148 trapped coal miners to be rescued alive.

Deputy director of the State Administration of Work Safety Sun Huashan said that according to experience from past coal mine disasters, chances are slim that the miners survived the explosion in the coal mine.

The gas explosion has left at least 60 people dead and 88 missing, according to latest reports.

The blast occurred at 10:47 pm Wednesday in Daping Mine, owned by Zhengmei Group, located in Xinmi, Henan Province, according to the local coal mine safety administration.

When the tragedy occurred, there were more than 400 people working underground. More than 290 managed to escape, but 148 others were trapped in the mine.



Grieved family members of stranded miners wait for news near the pithead of Daping coal mine.
Photo by Imaginechina

(Xinhua)

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Mismanaged Securities Firms Facing Bankruptcy

By Sun Yongjian

Several domestic securities firms are facing bankruptcy as a result of behavior that has seriously violated financial regulations and misused customers' funds. Whether resulting investor losses will be compensated remains unclear.

An announcement issued by some of the affected securities firms Sunday referred to a program initiated by "authorities" to purchase individual creditors' rights as well as individual and institutional customers' securities transaction settlement funds from bankrupt financial institutions.

A report by Xinhua News Agency the same day expanded further on the content of the announcement, but did not reveal the names of the concerned financial institutions or specify which authorities were involved.

The Securities Regulatory Commission has given the go-ahead for several securities firms, including Dalian Secu-

rities, Anshan Securities, Huakang Trust Co., Xinhua Securities and Jiamusi Securities, to start bankruptcy proceedings. Most of them are accused of misusing customer funds and violating state regulations, according to a report in *Beijing Morning Post* Monday.

Similar problems have also affected MF Securities, which was taken over by the China Orient Asset Management Corporation from October 18 (see page 3 for detailed report).

"It is possible investors will receive some compensation, because a discount and non-discount purchase for individual creditor rights, and individual and institutional customers' securities transaction settlement funds will be launched, according to the Xinhua report," said financial commentator Shui Pi in an interview with *Beijing Today* Wednesday. "For instance, for the individual creditors' rights, applicable to when individual investors purchase management products such as bonds, trusts and so on, the

authorities may take some measures, such as discounted purchase, or allow the securities firms to issue short-term fund placement bonds, or let the assets management companies take over the securities firms," Shui said.

"However, the investors should definitely share some part of the loss brought by the entrusted assets management by themselves," he added.

Some parts of the creditors' rights, such as individual deposit and individual and institutional customers' securities transaction settlement funds, will be fully purchased, so as to maintain social stability and protect investors' interests. Other parts, such as the certificates of creditor's rights kept by individual investors, the assets management entrusted to the financial institutions, and the bonds kept by individual investors and deposited on the accounts of financial institutions will be purchased at some discount, according to the Xinhua report.

Securities Firms Allowed to Issue Short-term Bonds

By Sun Yongjian

Financial authorities have approved qualified securities firms to issue short-term bonds in the inter-bank market, according to a regulation published Tuesday on the website of the People's Bank of China, China's central bank.

The funding channel bottleneck restricting the growth of securities firms should be widened through market oriented measures, the regulation states.

Qualified firms will be able to issue short-term bonds that last no longer than 91 days on the interbank market. No limits have been set of interest rates, which can be negotiated between the seller and buyer.

"Allowing securities firms to issue short-term bonds will enhance the financial strength of these firms as well as investor confidence," Zhu Jianfang, an analyst with China Securities told *China Daily* Wednesday.

Short-term bonds should prove more popular than long-term bonds, because they involve more liquidity and less exposure, Zhu said.

The regulation will take effect on November 1.

Restrictions Issued for Top Futures Executives

By Qiu Jiaoning

China Securities Regulatory Commission has released a circular stipulating restrictions on who can be appointed as senior executive of futures companies, Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday.

The restrictions apply to the positions of board president, managing director, executive director, and directors and supervisors of branch operations, finance and risk management departments.

Those banned from such appointments include anyone who has been imprisoned or deprived of political rights in the past five years on charges of corruption, bribery or misappropriation of public funds; anyone who, in the past three years, has been found responsible for causing bankruptcy of a firm through mismanagement; anyone who has been heavily in debt and failed to pay it off on schedule; anyone who has been deprived of their qualifications as lawyer or accountant for violations occurring in the past five years; anyone forbidden from entering a stock or futures market by the Securities Regulatory Commission; anyone who has been given a disciplinary warning or graver punishment for neglect causing a company severe economic loss in the past five years; and anyone who has been given a disciplinary punishment by the China Futures Association, China Securities Association or other supervisory organs in the past three years.

Anti-hijack Drill Conducted in Urumqi



Troops storm the passenger compartment of an airliner through a blown door during an anti-hijack exercise at the Urumqi International Airport, in northwest China's Xinji-

ang Uygur Autonomous Region Wednesday. Over 600 personnel participated in the joint exercise, which utilized helicopters, fire engines and armored vehicles. (Xinhua Photo)

US Makes Diplomatic Files Available to Chinese Public

By Chu Meng

American records of Sino-US diplomatic affairs dating from 1789 to 1944 have been opened to the Chinese public as of Monday. The records will be available at the Information Resource Center of the US embassy in Beijing, Wang Wei, an assistant information officer at the center told *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

It is the first time for the US to provide previously classified China-related documents to the Chinese public. The files, which have been held at the US National Archives and Records Administration, are sorted into 26 catalogs. Most of them are official documents submitted by US diplomatic departments in dif-

ferent cities in China to various state and military departments.

Vice-dean of Renmin University's School of International Studies, Jin Canrong, told *Beijing Today* Tuesday, "These files are primary sources for Sino-US relations studies. Before, we could only travel to America to get access to such data, which was very time consuming and expensive for Chinese scholars. A more thorough study of such historical documents will greatly help us understand the current policy that America adopts to China."

According to Wang, an advance appointment is required for people who want to study the files, however there is no charge for doing so.

Insurance Companies to Appoint Statistics Watchdogs

By Chu Meng

Domestic and foreign-funded insurance companies are required to appoint a statistics supervisor as part of their administration, according to a document issued by the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) last Friday.

According to the regulation, the statistics supervisor should be responsible for submitting real, thorough and accurate statistical information about companies' annual operations to the relevant authorities.

The statistics supervisor should be responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the material, and ensure it contains no ambiguities.

Supervisors who fail in the discharge of their duties will be subject to punishments ranging from a warning to a fine of up to 500,000 yuan and having their license revoked.

Figures published on the CIRC's website show that currently, insurance is one of the fastest growing industries in the country, with an annual growth rate of 34 percent since 1980. Through the first three quarters this year, total insurance volume reached 334 billion yuan, a 12.5 percent increase compared with the same period in 2003, while the total capital amount of the industry reached 1.13 trillion.

China's Financial Assets Reach 30.15 Trillion

By Zhang Bo

According to a statement posted on the website of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the overall assets of financial institutions in China at the end of September totaled 30.15 trillion yuan, up 12.1 percent year-on-year.

The banking watchdog said the combined assets of the four big state-owned commercial banks were up 8.1 percent comparatively, at 16.3 trillion yuan, those of stock-holding commercial banks were up 21.4 percent at 4.41 trillion, those of

city commercial banks up 16.8 percent at 1.57 trillion yuan

Meanwhile, the total liabilities held by the financial institutions stood at 9.02 trillion yuan, an increase of 12.2 percent year-on-year.

In addition, the combined assets of the other financial institutions, including non-banking institutions and urban and rural credit cooperatives by the end of September were up 15.2 percent at 7.86 trillion yuan, while their combined liabilities rose 15.3 percent to 7.6 trillion.

Registration Made Easier for NGOs

By Qiu Jiaoning

A requirement that non-government organizations (NGOs) receive approval from relevant government departments before registration is expected to be revoked, it was revealed during the International Workshop on Mainstreaming Public Participation and International Cooperation, *Beijing News* reported Monday.

An official from the Ministry of Civil Affairs said there was no stipulation requiring such approval when the registration rules for NGOs were originally formulated, it was

later made a requirement in order to avoid disorderly development. However, the official said, it is imperative that the rule be revoked as soon as possible.

Many NGOs have failed to register and establish because they are unable to find responsible institutions. Consequently, NGO development has been hampered.

There are currently around 230,000 NGOs in China, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs is working on an appraisal system to standardize their development.

2003 GDP Revised Up

By Dong Xin

The National Bureau of Statistics announced on its website last Thursday that it had revised the 2003 gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate up to 9.3 percent.

The revision marks a 0.2 percent increase from the figure of from 9.1 percent published in the China Statistical Yearbook 2004 on September 22.

According to the announcement, the updated data demonstrates that the 2003 GDP was 11.72 trillion yuan. The value-added amount for primary industry was 1.71 trillion yuan, the

value-added amount for secondary industry was 6.13 trillion yuan, and the value-added amount for tertiary industry was 3.89 trillion yuan.

Meanwhile, the announcement also revealed some other updated data, including completed investment in fixed assets for 2003 (5.56 trillion), national finance revenue (2.17 trillion) and national finance expenses (2.46 trillion).

The bureau said the changes were made according to the release of statistical data by the bureau and such alterations are in keeping with international practice.

State to Set up Unemployment Register

By Dong Xin

In an effort to improve macro-decision making in unemployment insurance and unemployment management, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security established an unemployment register and unemployment insurance monitor system last Friday.

By 2006, the system is expected to form a three-level supervision system (central, provincial and city level governments) to collect information on eligible workers who are unemployed, which will provide support for the macro-

decision making of governments at all levels.

An official from the ministry's Unemployment Insurance Department, who declined to give his name, told *Beijing Today* Tuesday that the system would be first established in 15 to 20 provinces in 2005.

"The program mainly aims to help the government to formulate relevant policies and to promote reemployment. But the problem is that there are still a certain level of unregistered unemployed, which will reduce the effectiveness of the system," the official added.

Beijing Holds World Petroleum Congress Youth Forum

By Chu Meng

A four-day youth forum organized by the World Petroleum Congress (WPC) was held from Sunday to Wednesday in Beijing. At a time when world oil prices have hit a record high of US \$55 per barrel, the forum mainly concentrated on the core technological topics of energy efficiency and saving.

Senior petroleum industry officials addressing the open ceremony Sunday said the youth forum aimed to create exciting and interesting debate and discussion among young people who were new to the industry, as well as those con-

sidering a career in the petroleum industry.

The forum invited executive officers, senior experts and scholars as well as education specialists from the global petroleum industry and energy industry to give addresses on such topics as petroleum and natural gas as major energy resources for the 21st century; the rapid development of petroleum alternatives; and youth as the hope for the future development of the petroleum industry.

Many outstanding papers on these topics were also contributed by people under the age of 35.

Restrictions Relaxed on Market Surveys by Foreign Organizations

By Qiu Jiaoning

The National Bureau of Statistics has released management regulations for market surveys conducted in China by overseas organizations, *Beijing News* reported Tuesday.

Foreign individuals and organizations can now carry out market investigations through organizations holding relevant permits without reporting to administrative organs for approval.

Foreign-invested enterprises may conduct both social and market investigations. For social surveys, approval from relevant departments is still required.

Organizations conducting such surveys should complete archive files for foreign-related business. Meanwhile, statistic departments together with State Council and related agencies will carry out regular inspections in order to supervise such surveys.

EU Lifts Ban on Chinese Animal Imports

By Chu Meng

The European Union (EU) has scrapped a two-year-old ban on Chinese animal imports, allowing China to resume exports of shrimp, farmed fish, honey, royal jelly, rabbit meat and a number of other products of animal origin in recognition of China's "significant improvements" in meeting the EU's veterinary standards, Franz Jessen, deputy head of the delegation of the European Commission announced Monday.

The move was approved at

the EU Member States Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. Chinese exporters must have their products checked by Chinese food safety authorities at the National Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau before shipping and each consignment must be certified as meeting relevant EU food safety standards.

"In January of 2002, shortly after China joined the World Trade Organization, the EU sus-

pended imports of all products of animal origin from China after finding residues of veterinary medicine in food. At that time the imports affected under the ban were worth about 400 million euros," said Jessen.

Favorable results of recent checks of Chinese food products carried out by EU member states have allowed the commission to already relax restrictions on a range of goods, including casings, sea-caught fish and crayfish.

Zhao Junjie, associate profes-

sor at the Institute of European Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told *Beijing Today*, "On one hand, China has made remarkable progress in controlling and monitoring residues on food products and made great strides towards meeting EU standards. On the other hand, China is Europe's third largest trade partner, so they were going to lift non-tariff trade barriers on Chinese imports sooner or later."

Zhao added that figures from Chinese Customs showed trade between China and the EU in the first eight months of this year surpassed \$111 billion, up 36.6 percent year-on-year. China's exports accounted for \$65.5 billion of that total, up 39 percent from last year, and its imports reached \$46.2, up 33 percent.

Cathay to Buy 9.9 Percent of Air China

Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's largest airline, has agreed to buy a near-10 percent stake in Chinese mainland carrier Air China as part of a deal that promises a close partnership between the two airlines.



Photo by Imaginechina

Singapore's Temasek Fund to Buy Stake in Minsheng Bank

By Annie Wei

Temasek Holding, a fund controlled by the government of Singapore, is preparing to purchase a 4.55 percent stake in China Minsheng Bank from China National Coal Group, the *Beijing Morning Post* said Monday.

Although Minsheng did not put a price on the shares, Temasek offered \$110 million, 10 times what former holder China National Coal Group paid, the newspaper said.

Temasek Holdings, an Asia investment company founded in 1974, has invested in Singapore, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia and the US and its holdings in listed companies on the Singapore stock exchange have a total market value of \$54 billion.

Minsheng is China's only pri-

vate bank and one of its strongest performers, with a bad loan ratio of only 1.29 percent as of the end of this March, compared to the 19 percent ratio of the state-run Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bloomberg reported last week.

Eva Ho, director of corporate communication at Temasek's Singapore office, confirmed to *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that Temasek was interested in Minsheng Bank because of its promising growth potential. Ho said Minsheng's board had approved Temasek's stake purchase plan, but the actual transaction awaited final approval from national regulatory authorities.

Introducing foreign investment would complete Minsheng's share-holding structure, attract more foreign clients and enhance its management quality through learning from foreign banking expertise, local financial analyst Shui Pi told *Beijing Today* this Wednesday.

A source from Minsheng Bank said the same day that the 4.55 percent stake purchase was just a simple transaction between Temasek and one of the bank's shareholders, noting that Minsheng and the Asian investment firm had not agreed on strategic cooperation or exchange of managerial methods.

Assets Manager Takes Over Securities Firm

By Sun Yongjian

Fujian province-based MF Securities Co., Ltd. has been taken over by China Orient Asset Management Corp. in the wake of serious violations of national securities regulations, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Monday.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) decided to entrust China Orient to launch a trusteeship operation for the accused securities firm in order to sustain its market stability and protect the legal interests of investors and debtors, Xinhua said.

The CSRC called for in-

vestigations of the civil and criminal responsibilities of the people involved in the security firm's illegal actions.

An insider from MF Securities confirmed the news to *Beijing Today* on October 19, adding things were still running as normal.

An unnamed CSRC source told the *Beijing News* that MF Securities' current liabilities were around 2.2 billion yuan, far more than the firm could pay.

The crisis at MF Securities began on April 3 when the firm's former chairman, Zhang Xiaowei, was arrested around the time 2 billion yuan in funds suddenly and inexplicably disappeared from company accounts, the *21st Century Economic Report* newspaper said on May 17.

MF Securities denied the veracity of that report in an announcement given to the website Tom.com on May 21.

Wu Yonghong, generally considered the real manager of MF Securities, was also charged with misusing huge amounts of customers' funds but fled and has yet to be apprehended, the domestic magazine *Finance* said on August 23.

New China Index Futures Traded in Chicago

By Sun Yongjian

Investors in the US can now participate in China's futures market thanks to the launch of a new futures transaction product at the Chicago-based CBOE Futures Exchange LLC (CFE) on Monday, the exchange announced through a news release on its website.

"This is the first US-listed futures contract that provides exposure to the fast growing mainland Chinese market. US investors will now have the opportunity to participate in this market with a US-listed futures contract, supported by continuous liquidity from one of the largest and most experienced market making firms," Patrick Fay, managing direc-

tor of the CBOE Futures Exchange said in the release.

The exchange's new CBOE China Index is a broad-based, equal-dollar weighted index composed of 16 securities, including Aluminum Corp. of China Ltd. (ACH), China Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (LFC), China Telecom Corp. Ltd. (CHA) and Chinadotcom Corp. (CHINA), all of which are either American depository receipts (ADRs), New York registered shares (NYSEs) or NYSE global shares (NGSs) traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq or the American Stock Exchange.

The index would be rebalanced quarterly, the news release said.

McDonald's Plans Domestic Franchises

American fast food giant McDonald's plans to start franchising operations in China and expects to develop about eight to 10 franchises in the country by 2006.

Opening a McDonald's franchise will require around 2.5 to 3.2 million yuan (\$300,000

to 390,000).

James Kramer, vice president of international franchising, said the world's largest restaurant chain already operated 600 restaurants in China and hoped to add 100 restaurants each year starting 2005. (Xinhua)

China, British Car Giants Mull Joint Bid for Daewoo Poland Plant

By Sun Yongjian

Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC) of China and its strategic partner, UK-based MG Rover, are considering making a joint bid to buy the Polish car production operations of bankrupt South Korean carmaker Daewoo Motor, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported last Thursday.

The companies were in the initial stages of talking about an approach for making the bid, the newspaper said.

Press officers from SAIC declined to comment on the move when asked by *Beijing Today*.

The proposed joint bid would be the first attempt by a Chinese carmaker to purchase a European counterpart, the Agence France Presse said last week.

Daewoo's Polish plant was one of the assets US giant General Motors decided against buying when it took control of most of the troubled South Korean group two years ago.

ADB Invests in Leading Domestic Credit Guarantor

By Chu Meng

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will take a minority equity stake in the holding company of China's largest privately owned credit guarantee firm, Shenzhen Credit Orientwise Company, ADB's Beijing office announced last Thursday.

Credit Orientwise specializes in guaranteeing loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and provides credit assessment services and

risk mitigation mechanisms previously lacking in China's financial system.

ADB initially planned to invest around \$10 million in China, most of which would go towards improving Credit Orientwise's internal information technology systems, increasing its capital for growth, and helping it expand from its base in Shenzhen to other cities in the country, the release said.

Foreign Bank Delves into Domestic Derivatives Market

By Sun Yongjian

Netherlands-based ABN Amro Bank announced last Tuesday that it had received a license from Chinese authorities to open financial derivative business in China, according to a statement issued on the website of The Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), the country's banking watchdog, issued the document, saying ABN Amro Bank would be allowed to provide a series of financial derivatives products,

forward transactions, swap transactions and option transactions, in the Chinese mainland market.

ABN Amro Bank, a leading European financial services provider, operates three branches in the Chinese mainland in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

After becoming the first foreign bank allowed to operate in the domestic futures market, ABN Amro Bank signed an agreement with the domestic Galaxy Securities firm to develop financial derivative products in China, Bruno Schricke, chief representative of the bank's Beijing office, said in the statement.

Air China, Austrian Airlines Tighten Ties

By Chu Meng

Austrian Airlines and Air China are shifting gears towards closer cooperation by establishing a free sale agreement, Dr. Josef Burger, chief commercial officer of Austrian Airlines Group announced Monday at a Beijing press conference. While their present cooperation contract provided only limited sales possibilities for Air China on Austrian Airlines-operated flights to and from China, the new deal would give Air China flexible sales ac-

cess to Austrian's entire seat capacity, Burger said.

In its 2005 summer schedule, Austrian Airlines will double its flights between the Beijing and Vienna from three to six a week and increase its Shanghai flights from the current three to five per week.

Austrian Airlines was seriously considering a third destination point in China, the release said, underscoring the carrier's commitment to expand its network to match China's rapid economic growth.

Report Makes Rosy Forecast for Beauty Market

By Annie Wei

Sales of beauty products are skyrocketing in China and the beauty industry, including cosmetics, spas, salons and related beautifying treatments, is destined to become the fifth largest industry in the domestic market, according to a report on the status of the industry in 2005 compiled by four renowned domestic economists and released on Monday for the start of the China International Beauty Week Exhibition.

The report says that roughly eight million people are employed in the domestic beauty industry, the total sales volume of which hit 176 billion yuan last year and should double in the next five years.

It also indicates that China's

continued, rapid economic development along with the increasing disposable incomes of urban and rural people are key factors to the market's explosive growth.

The report points out several weak points blocking the industry's healthy development, such as a lack of supervision and proper management, the shortage of well trained professionals in the field, the ubiquity of fake products and false advertising, the proliferation of illegal beauty clinics performing dangerous surgical operations, the involvement of prostitution, drugs and illegal direct sales schemes and the scarcity of professional information and a trade press.

More than 200,000 people from around China and abroad are expected to visit the China

International Beauty Week Exhibition, organized by the Sichuan-based *China Beauty Fashion* newspaper, Germany's Messago Holdings and the venue, the Beijing Exhibition Center.

During the week-long event, the new Chinese versions of *ICN*, a France-based cosmetics trade publication, and another publication printed by Italian hair dressing firm Esteticas will hit the market.

More than 1,000 exhibitors, including major international companies, are expected to take part, according to the event's official website.

Max Hare, publishing director of *ICN* China, said in the company's Chinese magazine that the publication was designed to meet the needs of the burgeoning Chi-

By Andres Oppenheimer

October 17 (Miami Herald) – A new international ranking showing historically poor Botswana ahead of such middle-income countries as Mexico, Brazil and Argentina makes me wonder whether Latin American countries are focusing on the wrong issue. They may be worrying too much about free trade and too little about competitiveness.

Much of Latin America is debating whether to sign a 34-country Free Trade Area of the Americas with the United States or similar deals with the European Union. Such agreements could increase the region's exports and encourage investments from companies eager to ship their goods duty-free from there to the world's biggest markets.

While the discussion goes on, few are realizing that Latin America is falling farther behind in the world's rankings of the most attractive countries to invest in. We may reach a point where Latin American countries may gain duty-free access to the US market but won't be able to compete with Eastern European, Asian and African countries.

Consider the international competitiveness ranking released by the World Economic Forum last week, based on a poll of 8,700 business leaders in dozens of countries. The ranking is based, among other things, on respondents' perceptions about countries' economic environment and the quality of their institutions.

Latin America Should Follow Botswana's Lead

When asked to name the most attractive countries to invest in, business leaders put Latin America – with the sole exception of Chile – near the bottom of the list.

The 104-nation ranking is led by Finland, followed by the United States and Sweden. From then – except for Chile, which is ranked 22nd – you see a long list of mostly European and Asian countries, with no Latin American nation in sight.

Estonia, Israel, Slovenia, Jordan, Lithuania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Tunisia, Latvia and Botswana are all ranked above such Latin American middle-income countries as Mexico, Brazil and Argentina.

Mexico, despite enjoying the fabulous advantage of being next door to the largest market in the world, is ranked 48th, Brazil 57th and Argentina 74th, just one place ahead of Gambia. Even farther behind are Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia.

My conclusion: Perhaps Latin America shouldn't only think about whether to get preferential

access to the US and European markets, but also about how to create the right conditions to attract domestic and foreign investments. Otherwise, free-trade deals won't be of much use.

Analyst's Take:

From the past experiences of the region, we can say that Latin America should tackle the following issues:

First, in the coming years, Latin America needs to deepen economic reforms without incurring further economic and social cost. Undoubtedly, the first-generation reform in the region yielded remarkable progress, but also generated conspicuous negative outcomes.

Experiences in Chile as well as in East Asia have proved that social development, such as more education, more equal distribution of income, less crime and better healthcare, among others, can lay a solid foundation for long-term higher economic growth.

Second, Latin America needs to pay attention to the side effects

of globalization. As the financial crises in emerging economies over the past decade have proved, uncontrolled capital flow and opening the domestic market without good preparation tend to result in catastrophe.

The greatest challenge for Latin American countries is how to:

- 1) strengthen their overall national competitiveness*
- 2) reduce their reliance upon foreign capital by increasing domestic capital formation, and*
- 3) upgrade the industrial structure.*

To meet the challenges of regionalization and globalization, countries in the western hemisphere, except Cuba, have been proceeding towards establishing a free trade area by 2005. Although some Latin American countries have voiced their opposition towards the US attempt to control a trade zone of hemispheric size, it is very likely that Free Trade Area of Americas (FTAA) will materialize by then.

FTAA will represent the world's largest free trade area. Therefore, its importance in the world economy should not be underestimated. It will increase competition among the world's three major economic groups, push the process of globalization one big step forward, and increase the economic strength of countries in the western hemisphere.

– Jiang Shixue, deputy director of Institute of Latin American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Science

(Qiu Jiaoning)

China Reactor Sale to Be Approved Soon – US Official

Beijing, October 19 (Reuters) – Washington will likely approve the first-ever sale of powerful US-made nuclear reactors to China in the next few months, a senior US official said on Tuesday.

The United States was expected to seek promises China would not sell the next-generation nuclear technology to countries such as Iran and North Korea, Nils Diaz, chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, told a news conference.

“The commission will actually vote on this issue hopefully in the next couple of months,” he said during a trip to Beijing.

“We don't foresee any problems with the AP1000 license because most of the problems have already been solved. I cannot predict what the voting of my fellow commissioners is, but I haven't heard any significant opposition to the issue,” Diaz added.

Approval would be a victory for Pittsburgh-based, British-owned Westinghouse Electric, which applied in February to build two of its 1,100 megawatt, next-generation AP1000 reactors in China.

It would mark the first sale of US-made nuclear reactors to China, which has invited bids from foreign firms to design and build four nuclear power plants worth billions of dollars to meet a crippling energy shortage.

The sale of two such reactors, which are being billed as powerful and safe, would generate some \$2.7 billion in revenue for Westinghouse. The reactor has not been built anywhere in the world.

Local Report:

According to Zhang Qiyue, spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry of China, China and the United States signed an agreement on peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in 1985 and the agreement went into effect in 1998. As a result, some US firms this time have joined in the bidding process to build nuclear plants in China.

“We hope American companies will actively participate in the bidding. The end result depends on the circumstances and the needs of Chinese companies,” she said.

Zhang Huazhu, Chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority, revealed China planned to construct an average of two to three nuclear power plants during each of the coming 15 years, in an attempt to raise the nation's nuclear power capacity from 1.7 percent to 4 percent in 2020.

In view of the huge potential economic interests, the US is not resigned to being excluded from such a market with a volume of several billion US dollars. The main competitors of the AP1000 in the Chinese market come from France, Germany and Russia.

– Beijing Youth Daily, October 20, Beijing

(Zhang Bo)



Wearable Web Access

Bill Gates (right), Nick Hayek Jr., Swatch Group CEO (left), and Mischa Barton Wednesday in New York pitch the new Swatch Paparazzi watch, which can connect to MSN to allow users to access weather, sports, news and financial information.

Xinhua Photo

European Insurance Stocks Slump as Spitzer Sues Marsh

New York, October 15, (Bloomberg) – European insurance stocks dropped, led by Munich Re, following allegations by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer that Marsh & McLennan, the world's largest insurance broker, took “lucrative payoffs” for steering unsuspecting clients to some insurers including Munich Re.

Shares of Munich Re, the world's biggest reinsurer, fell as much as 5.1 percent to 73.24 euros, while Zurich Financial Services AG shares declined as much as 4.9 percent to 166 Swiss Francs. Swiss Reinsurance Co. fell as much as 4.2 percent to 71.85 francs.

“This is very bad news for investors who already had lost quite a lot of confidence in the sector,” said Marc Effgen, who helps manage about \$13 billion at Ferrier Lullin & Cie. in Geneva, including shares of Munich Re, Swiss Re and Zurich Financial.

The 25-member Bloomberg Europe 500 Insurance Index has shed 44 percent in the past three years after companies posted losses from investment writedowns, asked investors for money to plug capital shortfalls and added to reserves for claims. Losses from this year's hurricanes in the US prompted some insurers including Hannover Re to cut their 2004 earnings and profitability targets.

Spitzer's suit, filed in Manhattan's New York Supreme Court,

cited four insurance companies that worked with Marsh to land more business by paying so-called contingency commissions: American International Group Inc., Ace Ltd., Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. and Munich Re. None of them were sued.

Munich Re and its US units are “not a defendant in that complaint” and are cooperating with Spitzer's investigation, according to a faxed statement from Munich Re's American Re unit. Daniel Hofmann, a spokesman for Zurich Financial Services in Switzerland, said the company had no comment.

Shares of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Plc, the UK's biggest publicly traded insurance broker, fell as much as 8 percent, or 35.75 pence to 409 pence. They were down 3.3 percent to 430 pence at 9:12 am in London. Broker Benfield Group Plc. declined 5.7 percent.

Jardine “has not been approached by the attorney general,” said spokeswoman Nicola Hobday in a telephone interview.

Spitzer's suit yesterday prompted the biggest one-day drop in US insurance stocks in more than four years. Shares of Marsh fell a record 24 percent. American International's stock slumped 10 percent, the biggest decline in 17 years. Ace lost 9.5 percent of its market value.

Analyst's Take:

Such scandals are common

in many countries and hard to counter, even in the United States where insurance supervision is considered perfect by many Chinese analysts.

Actually, the scandals damage the reputation of the whole insurance industry, as well as the future of insurance brokers, who lose customer trust.

Quite separate from sales agents who act on behalf of the insurance companies, the insurance brokers are always recognized as the representatives of the consumers, a bridge for communication between insurance companies and the consumer. They should help the consumers choose the right insurance company. Their credibility should be established by self-regulation.

But in fact, some brokers are always devoted to promoting the products of those insurance companies who pay them bribes.

The Marsh & McLennan incident is a typical case, a necessary lesson for the domestic insurance industry to learn because the domestic insurance broker industry is in its early phase. It's not too late to establish an association for professional self-regulation or launch regular examinations of the brokers, thus curbing corruption.

– Professor Hao Yansu, dean of the Insurance Department of The Central University of Finance and Economics

(Sun Yongjian)

South Korean Court Blocks Relocation of Capital City

Seoul, October 21 (AFP) – South Korea's Constitutional Court has derailed President Roh Moo-Hyun's plan to relocate the country's capital city from Seoul, saying the move was unconstitutional. “The special law on relocation of the capital is against the constitution,” said Yun Young-Chul, president of the court.

Capital relocation to aid “balanced” development in South Korea was one of Roh's key campaign pledges in the 2002 presidential election. Development has focused on Seoul and its surrounding region for several decades with other local areas lag-

ging far behind. The government has earmarked the agricultural town of Yeongi-Gongju, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Seoul, as the venue for the new capital following adoption of legislation on relocation by parliament in late 2002.

The main opposition Grand National Party has supported holding a national referendum on the plan which it says has polarized opinion and failed to win popular support. Prior to his election, Roh said he wanted to put capital relocation to a national referendum, but once elected decided against holding the plebiscite.

Brussels Orders Germany to Recover 3 Bln Euro in Bank State Aid

Brussels, October 19 (AFP) – The European Union executive ordered Germany to recover more than three billion euros (US \$3.8 billion) given in illegal aid to seven publicly owned regional banks in the 1990s.

“The European Commission has concluded its long-standing investigation into the transfer of public assets, in the early '90s, to seven German regional public banks by ordering Germany to recover 3 billion euro plus interest,” a statement said.

EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti said his ruling would create “a level playing field in the sector, which is in the interest of businesses operating in Germany, of the consumers/taxpayers, and of the banks themselves as it removes the uncertainty

which had been hanging upon them for too long”.

Under legislation introduced at the start of the 1990s, German banks were required to build up substantial capital to maintain new minimum levels of solvency.

WestLB and six other public banks were given the money by their regional governments (Lander), which partly or fully own the banks, through transfers of public housing and other assets.

That prompted a complaint to Brussels from the Association of German Private Banks, which also had to increase their solvency ratios without being able to draw on public funds.

WestLB, Germany's biggest public bank, was ordered by the commission to repay 979 million euros plus interest.

Three Top Citigroup Officials Leave Company

New York, October 19 (FT.com) – Three of Citigroup's most senior executives have lost their jobs for failing to prevent the violations of banking laws that led to the closure of its private bank in Japan. Sir Deryck Maughan, chairman of Citigroup International, Thomas Jones, head of asset management, and Peter Scaturro, head of the private bank, “will be leaving the firm”, the company said on Tuesday night.

Citigroup's asset management division, which holds more than US \$500 billion in institutional and retail money, had been subjected to inter-

nal probes and regulatory scrutiny relating to improper trading in mutual funds, and to undisclosed payments over the sale of mutual funds. Separately, it said that it had failed to pass on to investors a US \$16 million payment from a fund transfer agent.

Citigroup was never charged by regulators over its role in the year-old market-timing scandal, which has seen dozens of fund companies pay close to US \$3 billion to settle allegations that they allowed short-term traders to “market time”, or arbitrage, fund shares at the expense of long-term investors.

Coke to Alter Sales Methods in Europe

New York, October 20 (USA Today) – Coca-Cola agreed Tuesday to change the way it sells soft drinks in Europe, ending a five-year investigation into allegations that Coke abused its power to keep rivals out of the market.

“Consumers will generally have more choice at cafes, pubs and shops,” said Mario Monti, head of the European Union antitrust division. “They will also be in a position to choose on the basis of price and personal preferences rather than pick up a Coca-Cola product because it's the only one on offer.”

The probe was sparked by a complaint to the EU by US rival Pepsi (PEP), which ranks well behind Coke in European sales, about Coke's

practices there.

Among the deal's provisions:

– Coke has promised to end rebates to stores that purchase as much or more Coke volume than in the past. Rebates might only be based on current sales.

– The company has agreed that it will not require that retailers buy Coke's products that are less popular in Europe, such as Vanilla Coke, if they want to buy top sellers, such as Coke Classic and Fanta Orange.

– Stores won't have to display all of Coke's products together.

– Stores will save 20% of space in Coke coolers for rival soft drinks or offerings such as milk.

Refrigerating Breast Milk Slashes Protective Qualities

Paris, October 20 (AFP) – Mothers who refrigerate or freeze breast milk for longer than 48 hours should be warned that this can substantially reduce levels of protective compounds called antioxidants, a study says.

Antioxidants protect against rogue molecules called free radicals, which are associated with cell damage and ageing. Human milk that had been frozen for seven days had the lowest level of antioxidants, and refrigerating for seven days was equivalent in antioxidant terms to freezing for 48 hours.

“To preserve the antioxidant activity of human milk, storage time should be limited to 48 hours,” the study says. The findings are especially important for premature babies, who often have reduced antioxidant capacity and higher levels of free radicals as a result of infection and blood transfusions.

Formula milk was included in the experiment. It was found to have far lower antioxidant levels than fresh breast milk but its levels did not change, whether the milk was frozen or refrigerated.

Football Club Leaders Force League Reform

By Dong Nan

Leaders of six top Chinese football clubs held an emergency meeting this Tuesday and made a preliminary agreement with the Chinese Football Association (CFA) to deepen reforms of the domestic professional football league.

The historic agreement signed at the meeting called for the reform of Chinese league matches, particularly in terms of management and finances, the creation of a special commit-

tee including representatives of all professional clubs to study league reforms and present suggestions to the association and for a meeting on reform involving CFA officials and all league investors to be held soon.

The six leaders were Xu Ming, owner of the Dalian Shide club, Xu Zexian, chairman of the Shanghai Zhongyuan club, Li Jinyan, owner of the Beijing Guoan Club, Zhang Hai, owner of the Shenzhen Jianlibao Club, Zhang Shuguang, owner of the

Liaoning Zhongyu Club, and Sun Nengwen, owner of the Qingdao Yizhong Club. CFA Vice President Yan Shiduo attended to represent the league.

Dalian Shide owner Xu Ming told the media after the meeting that all the country's football clubs were witnesses to the CFA's efforts to reform the professional game over the past decade, and therefore they were obligated to help the league continue its reforms in order to patch a recent rift and pro-

mote the healthy development of the CFA's professional Super League.

The CFA convened a long-awaited executive committee conference in Beijing on Monday at the request of Beijing Hyundai, a team that made headlines nationwide when it withdrew from a league match earlier this month against the Shenyang Jinde club due to what they described as "unfair treatment from the referee." As *Beijing Today* reported the last two weeks, the club was docked three points from its league standings and the referee, Zhou Weixin, was suspended for the rest of the season.

Xu Zexian, chairman of the Shanghai Zhongyuan club, welcomed the CFA's decision and said that as an investor in the league, his club felt it had an obligation to be part of continuing reform efforts.

New Market Offers Legal Mutts

By Annie Wei

For the first time, prospective dog owners can purchase pooches on the up and up thanks to the opening of the city's first legal dog trade market in Wangsi Yingxiang, Chaoyang District on Saturday morning.

In the past, such dog-purchasing places were spontaneously organized by pet lovers and breeders and were not properly supervised or managed.

Over 60 dogs were sold on Saturday at the market, set up to keep sick or injured dogs from going home with customers. Dog dealers are required to provide customers with receipts and certificates proving dogs' health.

The massive market includes stores, an open sales area, an animal disease prevention center, management center and species identification center.

Regulations require anyone bringing a dog into the market to first have the animal go through quarantine and health inspection at the main entrance.



Dogs at the market are certified healthy.

Photo by Zhao Yong

On hand are four professional veterinarians and two quarantine officers responsible for maintaining sanitary conditions and animal health.

Chen Fengzhi, manager of the market, was quoted in the *Beijing Times* on Sunday as saying that people would be able to find healthy specimens of rare species at the market.

The newspaper said the local government planned to build a total of four dog trade markets in different sections of the city. One market set for Tongzhou District was awaiting approval and the sites of the other two were still under discussion, it said.

Digital Dogs Track Test Cheats

By Liu Zhaoxi

Educators in the capital are hoping electronic "dogs" will help them sniff out students trying to cheat on exams using their cell phones.

The "dog" is not an animal at all, but a small silver box with an antenna and flashing light that has affectionately been given a local nickname of "cell phone detecting dog."

The device was first used in Beijing last weekend to monitor the adult college entrance examination.

It can sense cell phone signals within a 15-meter range. When the machine picks up a cell signal, it vibrates and flashes a red light and can help test proctors locate attempted cheats.

Feedbacks from examination sites, however, was not completely positive. Tong Jingcun, principal of the Beijing No.156 Middle School, one of six sites that used the detector during the weekend exams, told *Beijing Today* the machine was not very efficient in locating cell phones receiving text messages because their signals

were too short to allow users to track down cheats.

Tang Tai, designer of the device from a Tsinghua University lab, attributed that problem to user skill. Tang told *Beijing Today* that technicians from his lab did not give exam supervisors much training in using the device, but said the lab would correct that oversight in the future.

"It was very easy to use. No training is needed," Tong Jingcun told *Beijing Today*.

Using communication devices such as beepers and cell phones to cheat on examinations of many kinds has become a widespread problem in China in recent years. Last year, over 100 takers of the adult college entrance examination were caught red handed using mobile phones and other devices to get answers, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

The Ministry of Education has announced it is paying close attention to the issue and has said cell phone signal detectors could be effective deterrents to such cheating.

Discarded Tank Discovered in Dump

By Wang Fang

The rusty remains of a Korean War-era tank turned up at a garbage disposal station in Daxing District on Monday, but now there is little trace as dump employees scrambled to disassemble the aged military vehicle the following evening.

Legally speaking, the dump should not have disposed of the tank without first receiving permission from the Chinese army, a military source was quoted as saying by the *Beijing Morning Post* on Wednesday.

The source said, "The General Armaments Department is responsible for deciding whether a tank should be discarded or not. Discarded tanks are sent to designated places to be melted down."

The tank was around five meters long and two to three meters wide and by the extent of its rusting, it looked long discarded.

Returned Satellite Flattens Apartments in Sichuan

By Dong Nan

A section of a Chinese scientific satellite intentionally returned from orbit unintentionally crashed into an apartment building in Chengdu, Sichuan Province last Friday, destroying its top floor but causing no injuries, the Chengdu-based *Tianfu Morning News* reported on Sunday.

The segment crashed into the three-story building owned by Liao Qingmu in the town of Daying, near Chengdu, around 10:30 am. Liao's neighbor, Wu Wanzhen, a 73-year-old woman, reportedly walked out the door of her top-floor apartment just minutes before impact.

The kettle-shaped capsule, measuring around two meters long and one ton in weight, was removed by local army personnel at 3:30 pm that day using a 50-ton crane. It was sent to the Sichuan Satellite Launching Center in Chengdu for examination.

"The satellite landed on our

home. Maybe this means we'll have good luck this year," the tenant of one devastated apartment, Huo Jiayu, was quoted as saying by the *Tianfu Morning News*.

The crash was a result of weather conditions and problems in the unit's propulsion system, said Chen Zugui, senior designer of spacecraft navigation and control systems at the China Academy of Space Technology, also known as "the Fifth Academy."

Chen said that China's satellite landing technologies were mature and the nation led the world in landing accuracy. He noted that there have been no human injuries in 30 years of satellite landings, and assured the public that there was no need to worry.

The section that hit the apartment had detached from an orbiting satellite launched 18 days before, the Xinhua News Agency said. The rest of the satellite should remain in space, it said.

Two Runners Die in Local Marathon

By Wang Fang

Two amateur runners, one a college student and the other a retiree, collapsed and died during this year's running of the Beijing International Marathon last Sunday. Another 11 people fell to the ground before reaching the finish line.

The dead were Liu Hongbin, a 20-year-old sophomore at Beijing Jiaotong University, and an older man surnamed Hu. Liu collapsed 17 kilometers into the race and was sent to Haidian Hospital, where he was pronounced dead after unsuccessful emergency treatment. Hu was confirmed dead Monday afternoon at Anzhen Hospital in northern Beijing.

Classmates of Liu's organized a memorial at the university on Wednesday afternoon to remember their fallen friend.

"This was the first time that runners have died in the 24-year history of the Beijing marathon," said a spokeswoman for the China Athletics Association, organizer of the race, who declined to give her name. "Every year we take measures to prevent this kind of thing, but unexpected things do happen during sports activities."

The organizers declined to make any further comment on the deaths.

Dr. Zhong, a cardiologist from Fengtai Hospital, told the *Beijing Times* that the marathon itself was not likely the direct cause of the two men's deaths. He said it would be necessary to investigate the victim's histories and diet before the race, as more likely reasons for their deaths were high blood pressure and congenital heart disease.

Another 11 runners were sent to local hospitals for emergency treatment during and after the race, including a woman from Peking University who collapsed halfway and is still in serious condition at Haidian Hospital.

More than 25,000 people ran in this year's marathon, the largest turnout in event history, *China Daily* reported.

Beijing Youth Daily quoted an unnamed participant as saying that no drinks were provided in the afternoon beyond the 22-kilometer mark. An event organizer told the paper that all drink stations had indeed been closed five hours into the event, but that vehicles had been available to pick up runners who did not feel well.

The Beijing Marathon Committee required all runners to fill in forms stating that they were fit to participate before setting out in the 42.195-kilometer race.



Liu Hongbin's classmates light candles to remember their friend who collapsed and died in last Sunday's race.

Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

Touch-ups Underway at Tiantan

By Liu Zhaoxi

Large-scale restoration of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, the famed round central building of the Temple of Heaven, or Tiantan, started Wednesday.

The foremost task in the refurbishing project is to change three layers of tiles on the circular altar that surrounds the hall. The present concrete tiles will be replaced with "golden" versions.

For obvious reasons, the tiles will not be made out of gold, but river and lake bed mud that will be baked and soaked in china wood oil to create bricks. Such tiles are only made in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province,



Workers clear the way for new tiles on the temple's roof.

Photo by Dai Jingjing

and in centuries past were exclusively used on imperial structures.

The restoration efforts also include repainting the hall's outside, applying new gold leaf to its golden top and protecting the stone terraces that surround the altar. Plans call for work to be completed in September 2006.

It is the second time the Beijing government has conducted a major refurbishment of the world famous historical site in the past five decades, the last coming in the 1970s.

fects in design, the poor quality of the mud used to build the wall and that ancient workers did not do a good job of fortifying the structure, Xinhua reported on Wednesday.

The wall is undergoing urgent repairs.

The Pingyao city wall is a state-protected cultural relic and a key element of Pingyao's celebrated heritage. The wall was thoroughly repaired by the Shanxi Provincial Government and the State Cultural Relics Bureau between the late 1970s and early 1990s.

Memorial Held for Chinese Engineer Killed in Pakistan

By Liu Zhaoxi

A memorial service for Wang Peng, a Chinese engineer who lost his life in a hostage crisis in Pakistan last Thursday, was held Sunday in Dezhou, Shandong Province, where Wang had worked.

Wang's wife, parents and parents-in-law attended the service. His body was transported back to Jinan, Shandong's capital, on Saturday, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Wang Ende, who was kidnapped with Wang Peng but rescued alive, also attended the service for his deceased colleague.

Plans to compensate the victims of the hostage crisis are already in the works. Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar promised on Sunday the Pakistani government would pay \$100,000 to the family of the Wang Peng and \$50,000 to Wang Ende, *China Daily* said on Monday.

In addition, China Pacific Life Insurance, with which the engineers' company had bought policies

for them, said it would turn over 400,000 yuan (\$48,000) to Wang Peng's family and was prepared to compensate Wang Ende, Xinhua reported.

The Pakistani government has also pledged to hunt down Abdullah Mehsud, a former Guantanamo Bay inmate who masterminded the abduction of the two Chinese engineers, according to Reuters.

Wang Ende is recovering from the traumatic event and still weak mentally and physically, the *Shanghai Morning Post* said Monday, speculating it could take a long time for him to fully recover.

The two engineers were kidnapped in Pakistan on October 9 while working on the Gomal Zam Dam project and a canal for China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Group Corp.

Last Thursday, Pakistani military forces launched an assault against the kidnappers, killing all five of them. The action left Wang Ende unharmed but Wang Peng bled to death after sustaining serious injury.

Learning from NBA China Games



Cheerleaders of the Houston Rockets performing in Beijing, October 17

University or Park?

By Chu Meng

Beijing University decided to limit visitor access to campus during the National Day vacation. And it has doubled security personnel at all entrances, making it more difficult for casual visitors to enter campus for any reason.

Different from other universities in China, Beijing University, the former Metropolitan University of the Qing Dynasty (Jing Shi Da Xue Tang) is the nation's top university. Founded in December 1898, it is the most prestigious institution of higher learning.

Beijing University has a garden-like campus with beautiful natural scenery. Weiming Lake, the library and the Boya Pagoda are the three most famous scenic spots. One can always find visitors taking pictures and enjoying the scenery. During the May Day Holiday, National Day Holiday, summer and winter vacations, Beijing University campus becomes a popular tourist site. These thousands of visitors put enormous pressure on the university's security conditions.

Now the vacation has ended, but heated discussions continue. Should Beijing University close access to campus? Or do the public have the right to visit? Here are some opinions:

Shi Nian Kan Chai ("10 years chopping firewood") on Internet bulletin board, a journalist working in Beijing, **It's a dream for many parents and students**

On October 4, I accompanied my wife and son to visit Tsinghua University and Beijing University. They came from our hometown and planned to look at these two famous universities on purpose. But after we successfully finished the first visit of Tsinghua, we were stopped at the west gate of Beijing University by security staff, and they told us both vehicles and people cannot enter campus during National Day vacation.

I usually come here to conduct interviews, and I have never been stopped for any reason. Security staff explained it was a school, not a park. We were not welcome, especially during holidays. And we had to be brought in by people from the relevant

department if we came here for business.

In fact, there are many royal gardens and parks in Beijing, all of them obviously better than the scenery in Beijing University. Why do you think people prefer visiting here with their children? That is because it is a dream goal for many Chinese parents and young ambitious students. Beijing University tops academic learning institutions.

Liu Zizhong, postgraduate student from Beijing University, **It's reasonable to close the door to visitors**

This policy is only a temporary one, just for the seven-day holiday. Now it's back to normal. That is to say our university is in effect always open to the public. No serious check on visitors or vehicles took place at the gates before. My friends from other universities who came to see me have never been stopped. For cars, if they have certificates granted by the school, there won't be any problems. But if not, a car can also enter by paying a 2 yuan charge.

Personally speaking, I think it is completely reasonable to close the doors to visitors, even on other days besides holidays, because Beijing University is not a tourism location. Even if it was, it is by all means a special one. Sometimes it can become a really messy place. Too many students from other universities take up our seats in the classrooms. And the dinner halls can get really crowded. And there are always too many cars on campus and they drive really fast. They can come, but they would do better coming during the weekend.

University authorities said that, as part of the increased security measures to protect students and teaching staff and maintain a relatively quiet academic environment, people coming for sightseeing around the campus are not welcome. In addition, students from other colleges can only enter campus if accompanied by a student or teacher of Beijing University.

The university's security department says that the restrictions are required because too many visitors can make their job very difficult. The campus should not be treated like a



A guard stops a visitor from entering of Beijing University.

Photo by Wang Zhenlong

park. Other universities, such as Tsinghua, have not taken similar action.

Anonymous, head of security at Beijing University, **We were only obeying orders**

To tell the truth, it was an official dictate issued by Beijing Municipal Commission of Education to all schools and universities. For our university, it was over the concern that many students and teaching staff would leave campus to enjoy vacations. The number of tourists from other cities that came just for sightseeing would triple. They greatly harm security on campus, giving opportunities to potential dangers and bringing greater pressure on our security work. Thus the administration of the university decided to close the door to any visitors during National Day holiday.

Actually, there are about 100,000 of people and 10,000 vehicles who come in and go out of the university. It makes it impossible for us to check every visitor and car at the gate. But we

try our best to ensure a relatively good environment for students and teaching staff. For example, we put up "No Entry" signs around the study and living areas.

Jessie Liu, graduate student of the University of Missouri, **Foreign universities have harmonious relations with surrounding communities**

During my two years' study at the University of Missouri, I felt that foreign universities have a harmonious relationship with the surrounding community. There are no boundaries separating our university from the community. The library opens freely to residents. They can read and use the computer to send e-mail freely. At evenings and weekends, I saw families taking a walk in the green areas which belonged to school. For a public university is usually built taxes paid by residents of the community. Thus the university is theirs to some extent. But this concept sounds extremely strange to Chinese taxpayers.

By Liu Zhaoxi

The NBA China Games proved immensely popular in both Beijing and Shanghai, the two host cities for these exhibition matches. As the first-ever official NBA games held in China, the two encounters between Houston Rockets and Sacramento Kings, held on October 14 in Shanghai and October 17 in Beijing, sold out.

Each of the games attracted more than 10,000 people to the stadium and a huge television audience. The Rockets, with whom the "Little Giant" Yao Ming now plays, won in Shanghai 88-86 and lost in Beijing 89-91. Yao scored 14 points in Shanghai, his hometown, and 13 in Beijing. Another Chinese player, Liu Wei, also from Shanghai, played with the Kings. He only got two points in Shanghai.

After the success of the pre-season games in China, it was reported by the media that NBA regular season games might hopefully be held in China in 2007 or 2008.

Now the NBA exhibition games are done. Superstars, cheerleaders and even the floorboards were all carted back to the USA, but basketball lovers here in China are still talking about the games. There are many things to remember, to enjoy and learn.

Wang Fei, former coach of the national male basketball team of China, **I appreciated what the NBA did.**

The most important thing to learn from these games is the attitude and the will to fight of NBA players and coaches. The players have a solid foundation, and they play hard every second on court. It is such unremitting effort that makes the NBA attractive and able to develop an overseas market. NBA coaches worked hard to prepare for their opponent, gathering information and analyzing tactics. Many Chinese coaches are also doing a good job, but there are still disparities. I appreciate the NBA's action of holding games in China. The meaning of the games not only lies in promoting the market. More significantly, they encouraged more Chinese people to love basketball, which will promote the sport.

Tan Zhenbin, deputy director of the Key Laboratory of Sport Skill Evaluation and Technique Analysis of Beijing, **the NBA set an example to the CBA**

I think the NBA preseason games held in China will have some impact on the upcoming reform of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA). The NBA games brought some enlightenment on how to manage a sports event, such as creating an exciting atmosphere in the stadium, getting the audience involved, things like that.

In the US, there are big screens, cheerleaders, audio effects and cartoon figures to help create the atmosphere, but the CBA court is relatively quiet and cool. The audiences are not fully stimulated, and the cheerleader squads usually lack training. The CBA doesn't treat the audience as the prime service receiver, while the NBA puts the audience at center court. Sports events actually are a type of service to the audience.

Finally, the CBA is still under the control of an executive administration, not competing in a market. CBA clubs so far are still not able to support themselves financially, while NBA teams are. The NBA model set a goal for CBA reform in the coming years.

Zhang Lin, professor at Shanghai Institute of Physical Education, **the NBA promotion challenged the Chinese sports industry**

The purpose of the Rockets and Kings coming to China

was to further promote their own brand, recruit more fans, develop the Chinese market and explore new development space for the NBA.

This demonstrates the internationalization of the sports industry, and is helpful for the Chinese sports industry in learning advanced management ideas and models. But it also claimed a share of the sports market of China, mounting a serious challenge to the Chinese sports industry.

Marketing sports events is a complicated thing, including ticket marketing, athlete packaging, media promotions, advertisement planning, sporting goods and so on. All of these require professionals. The Chinese sports industry is still facing many problems such as the quality of its personnel, the imperfection of its administrative system and a lack of business services.

(From Xinmin Weekly)
Kenneth Leung, American student at Beijing University, **The audience were not excited enough**

I think the NBA China Games felt very much like real NBA games in the US. Although they were only exhibition games, the players still competed very hard, which is what NBA basketball is all about. They gave the Chinese fans a great show. From the perspective of an NBA fan, the China Games were everything I had expected. The only thing that disappointed me was seeing the crowd not being too excited. I suppose Chinese fans are not accustomed to watching NBA games live, and so they don't know how to react.

In America, people loudly chant and cheer, whereas in China, the fans seemed reserved. The excitement of the crowd definitely contributes to the energy of the game, and so when the crowd does not seem very excited, it makes the game seem boring, even though the best basketball players in the world were playing.

Randy Luo, American student from Rice University, Houston, **Just preseason games**

Well, they were preseason games and so they were just what I expected them to be – low intensity, and a lot of mistakes. However, it was weird how the signs were in Chinese and the chants were in Chinese. I was impressed by how much like America the stadiums and the entertainment were. Everything seemed modern and I was quite impressed by how similar the facilities in China were compared to the States. I hope that some day China will be able to host a regular season game, because only then can we see the real NBA in China. Right now, I feel it's a vague representation of what the NBA actually is.

Liu Bo, basketball student at Beijing Capital Institute of Physical Education, **The games were quite commercialized**

The games were very commercial. The players did not fight very hard. They wouldn't play like this in regular season games. But the games were still enjoyable. After all, such an opportunity is rare for Chinese people. Yao Ming did an exceptional job in the games. I watched his games before, but I think he is much better now. Liu Wei is outstanding among Chinese players but compared to a good NBA guard, he still has a long way to go.

James Copling, American student at Huadong Normal University in Shanghai, **American players play differently to Chinese**

The game was honestly as enjoyable as any game I've seen in the US. The only real difference was that American players tend to "show off" and do very fancy shooting that Chinese players don't do. This is where American players are very different from Chinese. American people pay not to just see the game, but also they want to see lots of action, crazy shots being taken... stuff like that.

Chinese are Getting Healthier

Survey also reveals unhealthy trends in urban and rural areas

Nutrition and health are important indicators of economic and social development. In China, there have been three national surveys on nutrition, conducted in 1959, 1982 and 1992. To understand diet and the status of nutritional health of Chinese people, a nationwide "Survey on the Status of Nutrition and Health of the Chinese People" was conducted from August to December, 2002. The results were published recently.

This survey included four parts: a questionnaire, a health examination, laboratory tests and dietary surveys of 23,463 households (7,683 urban households, 15,780 rural households). The findings were as follows:

Nutrition and Health Status of Chinese People

In the last 10 years, the diet and nutrition habits of urban and rural Chinese has improved significantly. Malnutrition and nutritional deficiency has continuously decreased. But China still faces the dual challenges of deficiency and nutritional imbalance.

Nutritional health improved

The quality of the average diet of the Chinese people has improved significantly. The energy and protein intake of the urban and rural population have been basically satisfactory. The consumption of meat, poultry, egg and other animal products has increased significantly, and the percentage of good quality protein in the diet has increased.

The daily consumption of animal products for people living in urban areas has increased from 210 grams in 1992 to 248 grams today and in rural areas from 69 gram to 126 grams, according to the survey. Compared with 1992, the dietary pattern of rural residents has become more reasonable, the percentage of good quality protein among the total protein intake has increased from 17% to 31%, energy contribution from fat increased from 19% to 28%, energy contribution from carbohydrates has been decreased from 70% to 61%.

The growth of children and teenagers has steadily improved. The average weight of newborn infants has reached 3,309 grams. Low birth weights accounted for 3.6% of total births, reaching the same level as industrialized countries. The average height of the 3-18-year-old age group in urban and rural areas was 3.3 centime-



Exercise is the best solution to weight problem.

Photo by Photocom

ters more than that of 1992. Compared with urban residents, rural men were on average 4.9 centimeters shorter and women 4.2 centimeters shorter.

Malnutrition among children significantly decreased. The prevalence of growth retardation among children under the age of 5 was 14.3%. Compared with 1992, it had decreased 55%. In urban areas, it decreased 74% and in rural areas 51%. The prevalence of low body weight in children was 7.8%. Compared with 1992, it decreased 57%. In urban areas, it decreased 70% and in rural areas 53%.

The prevalence of anemia slightly decreased. The prevalence of anemia in urban men dropped from 13.4% in 1992 to 10.6%, and the prevalence among urban women dropped from 23.3% in 1992 to 17%. The prevalence among rural men dropped from 15.4% to 12.9%, for rural women, the figure dropped from 20.8% to 18.8%.

Nutrition and health problems

The diet of urban residents is not reasonable to a certain ex-

tent. The consumption of poultry, meat and oil/fat was too high, and cereal consumption was at a relatively low level.

In 2002, daily consumption of oils/fats among urban residents increased to 44 grams from 37 grams in 1992. The energy contribution from fat reached 35%, exceeding the recommended upper limit of 30% by the World Health Organization. The energy contribution from cereals among urban residents was only 47%, significantly lower than the recommended range between 55% and 65%. Low consumption of dairy and soy products remained a common problem in China.

Some problems of malnutrition among the children in China's rural areas is still quite serious. Growth retardation occurred among 17.3% of children under the age of five. Children with low body weight accounted for 9.3%. In the poorest rural areas, growth retardation was 29.3% and low body weight 14.4%. Growth retardation was worst among 1-year-olds: 20.9% in rural areas, 34.6% in the

poorest areas. This demonstrates a significant problem associated with the improper use of complementary foods for infants in rural areas.

Micro-nutrient deficiency such as iron and vitamin A is a common problem in the urban and rural population. The prevalence of anemia among Chinese people averaged 15.2%. The prevalence of anemia among infants and children under the age of 2, people over the age of 60 and child-bearing women was 24.2%, 21.5% and 20.6%, respectively. The prevalence of vitamin A deficiency among the children aged between 3 and 12 years old was 9.3%. In urban areas, it was 3% and in rural areas, the figure was 11.2%. The prevalence of marginal vitamin A deficiency was 45.1%. In urban areas, it was 29% and in rural areas 49.6%. The average calcium intake of both the urban and rural population was 391 milligrams, equivalent to 41% of the recommended dietary intake level.

Rapid increase of chronic non-communicable diseases

(1) Hypertension

The prevalence of hypertension in the people over the age of 18 is 18.8%, and it is estimated that more than 160 million people are suffering from this illness in China. Since 1991, hypertension has increased 31%, with more than 70 million new hypertension patients since 1991. The prevalence of hypertension in the rural areas has also increased rapidly, and there is no significant difference between urban and rural areas.

(2) Diabetics

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes for people over the age of 18 years old in China was 2.6%, and the prevalence of impaired fasting plasma glucose was 1.9%. It is estimated there are more than 20 million diabetics in China. There are nearly 20 million others with impaired blood sugar level. The prevalence of diabetes in China is significantly higher in urban areas than rural.

(3) Obesity

Among Chinese adults, 200

million or 22.8% were overweight, and 60 million or 7.1% were obese. In the big cities, it was 30% overweight and 12.3% obese. Children's obesity reached 8.1%. Since 1992, obesity increased 97% with the number of overweight people up 39%.

(4) Blood lipid

The prevalence of abnormal blood lipid levels among adults in China was 18.6%, and it is estimated that 160 million people suffer from it. The prevalence of various types of abnormalities were: hypercholesterolemia - 2.9%, hypertriglyceridemia - 11.9%, low blood HDL cholesterol - 7.4%. Also 3.9% of those surveyed had borderline high-cholesterol level.

(5) Exercise

The survey results indicate that: high dietary energy, high dietary fat and less physical activity are closely related to the occurrence of obesity, diabetes and abnormal blood lipid levels. A high salt intake is closely related to the risks of hypertension. Alcohol is closely related to hypertension and abnormal blood lipid level. It should be particularly emphasized that those who with a higher level of fat intake and reduced physical activity face the highest risk of chronic disease.

Response

The Ministry of Health of China plans:

- To strengthen government leadership to promulgate relevant laws and regulations without loss of momentum and to integrate the improvement of people's nutrition and health into the 11th Five Year Development Plans at national and local levels.

- To consolidate scientific guidance in agriculture, food manufacture, distribution and marketing and bring into play their important roles in improving people's nutrition and health status.

- To strengthen public education, advocate a balanced diet and healthy lifestyles, enhancing people's awareness and self-help. To make full use of the information derived from this survey, relevant government ministries, commissions and agencies will be organized to prepare and publish a white paper on Chinese people's nutrition and health status, a series of monograph and popular scientific books. The survey database will be open to the public and information shared.

(Source: Ministry of Health, China)

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Revenge Hurts Informant

Informing system needs to be improved

By Zeng Pengyu/Wang Fang
Having heard no response from higher leadership, a woman who has suffered revenge from her boss for informing on his illegal activities sought help from *Beijing Youth Daily*. Her story was published on Tuesday.

Qin Shuling, the vice secretary of the Communist Party from Shandong Yanzhou Mining Group Shanghai Liaison Office,

wrote to *Beijing Youth Daily*, reporting that she had suffered several instances of retaliation by her boss, a Mr. Wang, who has not been fully named, for informing on him. She wrote in the letter, "The investigation conducted by the higher leadership proved my report was true. But Wang is still my direct boss now. My family members and I have suffered in various ways since February. Without any other choice, I have

to ask for help from the media." **'Threatened to teach me a lesson'**

Qin told *Beijing Youth Daily* she and her husband were transferred to Shanghai Liaison Office of Shandong Yanzhou Mining Group in June 2002 and she is the Communist Party vice secretary there. "When I first came here, some staff told me secretly that Wang was not clean spending public money." However, at

that time, she did not want to get involved since she "did not know much about the situation."

However, the audit in October 2002 changed her mind. She noticed that the auditing staff sealed up a safe after checking the accounts. Later she was told that at that time, several anonymous letters were sent to the higher leadership, reporting the messy accounts.

"Suddenly, the rumor spread through the Office saying that Wang thought I asked other people to write anonymous letters. He even threatened to teach me a lesson."

"On November 4, 2002, when I was ready to work, Wang's wife, an accountant, Mrs. Xia, who also worked in the Office, rushed into my office with five or six strangers. They shouted a stream of abuse at me, claiming it was me who invited the auditing staff to check the accounts and wrote the anonymous letters. They even shouted curses at my husband and beat him."

Everything was out of control that morning, she wrote. When Liao Peijun, the Secretary of the Communist Party in the Office, tried to calm down Xia and her followers, he was also beaten. Qin had to call the police.

When the police left, Xia and her followers broke into Qin's office again, shouting dirty words. They even did not allow Qin and her husband to go to the toilet, let alone have lunch. Qin had to call the police again. This time, the police warned Xia her action was illegal and the police took Qin and her husband to the police station for their safety.

"Next day, when my husband went to Wang's office to reason with him, Wang and his wife beat my husband to the ground."

After receiving a call for help from Qin, the police informed Yankuang Industry Company, the direct department responsible for the Office. But the company merely dismissed the event as an internal tiff. Wang and his wife were exempted from prosecution.

'Violent reactions suggest the



Comprehensive evidence collected by Qin

Photos by Zeng Pengyu

accounts must be bad'

Qin handed in her first report to the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Shanghai Zhabei Procuratorate at the end of November 2002 in her real name. She said, "If they (Wang and his wife) were innocent, they would not worry about the audit. Their violent reactions suggest the accounts must be bad."

In the report, Qin disclosed four major illegal actions conducted by Wang. First, he used 6.6 million yuan of public money to speculate on stocks when he was in charge of Shengxianju Investment Consultancy Company (a subsidiary of the Office). That created 3.6 million yuan losses. Second, he secretly signed a renovation contract for the Shengxianju Hotel (property of the Office) to obtain a commission. Moreover, he lent more than 1 million yuan to other companies that resulted in the bad debt. Finally, he also arranged his wife to become the chief accountant in the Office, which broke financial management regulations.

In December 2002, Qin also sent her report to the Shandong Commission for Disciplinary Inspection. The accurate and comprehensive evidence aroused the concern of the Commission and Yankuang Mining Group was required to investigate the case. In the meantime, the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Shanghai Zhabei Procuratorate started to process the investigation.

After proving that the report was true, the Disciplinary Inspection Commission of Yankuang Mining Group established a task force to examine the accounts of Shanghai Liaison Office. On June 19, 2003, Wang was temporarily relieved from his post and asked to write a self-criticism.

'He is still my boss and it is easy for him to take revenge'

But Wang's punishment consisted of being "on probation within the Communist Party for one year and acknowledging a serious mistake". No legal charges were filed against him, while his former colleagues in Shengxianju were sentenced to two years with a two-year reprieve by Shanghai Zhabei People's Court.

What shocked Qin more was that in February 2004, when the person in charge from Yankuang Mining Group came to the Shanghai Liaison Office to announce the decision, Wang "resumed his post as the director". Qin said, "The leadership knows that I informed on Wang. I don't know why they still arrange for him to work in the same office as me. How come they don't understand it would be easy for him to take revenge on me?"

What she feared finally did occur. One day, her 24-year-old daughter received a text message from a stranger, threatening: "Do you know Director Wang? We won't offend him because we have to make a living." Qin told *Beijing Youth Daily* in tears, "At first, we thought it was only blackmail. However, one day we saw an Office car

following us to my daughter's flat. We were frightened."

Qin has kept on reporting Wang's harassment to the higher leadership. But she has not received any response.

Not only her family members, but also her colleagues were harassed by Wang. Liao Peijun told *Beijing Youth Daily* that Wang also beat him for suspecting Liao was Qin's supporter. Liao said, "The most recent one was at the end of August. Wang rushed into my office, gripping my neck and cursing me."

Explanation by Yankuang Mining Group

Song Guo, secretary of the Disciplinary Inspection Commission of Yankuang Mining Group, explained why they did not pursue a criminal case against Wang. *Beijing Youth Daily* reported last Friday. "We did not find that Wang put public money into his own pocket," said Song. "Shengxianju began speculating with stocks before Wang came to Shanghai. Therefore, it was unfair to single him out."

But documents from the Group show that 41-year-old Wang arrived in the Shanghai Office as the director in February 2000 and Shengxianju was established around April 2002. What's more, Wang was the legal person of the company.

Song also acknowledged they had heard Qin's appeal about the revenge. "We are trying to resolve it, but Qin and Wang have a long-standing personal enmity." But according to Qin, Wang was transferred to the Shanghai Office in 1996, while she went there in 2002. She did not know him before.

Beijing Youth Daily has obtained information about a central government internal reference report regarding the decision made by Yanzhou Mining Group in April that questions the decision and deems "the legal responsibilities must be determined, not simply an acknowledgement of error."

The official told *Beijing Youth Daily* that Wang had a close and intimate relationship with Shandong Provincial Government and that was why he was still in his post. Wang's mobile was switched off when the paper called him.

'No regrets'

An expert on Communist Party discipline, who declined to give his name, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that if a Party member informed on illegal activities in his/her real name and then later suffers revenge, that represents a violation of their rights.

He said the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee was amending regulations concerning informing, emphasizing the protection of a Party member's rights.

"As long as the measures are appropriate, the number of revenge will drop."

When the paper asked Qin whether she regretted involving her family in the case, she said, "No, I don't regret a thing."



Wang signed a secret contract to renovate Shengxianju Hotel

Drought in Guangxi and Guangdong

By Wang Fang

A rare drought that began in August has continued with little or no rainfall in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guangdong Province, threatening the local economy, especially farming, and affecting people's daily life.

Rivers, ponds and reservoirs have dropped to low levels with some already dry and in certain farming areas, crops have withered, according to Xinhua News Agency.

"It is the first severe drought (in Guangxi and Guangdong) in 50 years", said a meteorologist from the State Observatory.

The headquarters of the Flood Prevention and Drought Resistance Committee in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region disclosed the statistics of the drought last Saturday, claiming that more than 1.65 million acres of arable land scattered in 74 counties had been hit by the drought and about 1.4 million local people faced a shortage of drinking water. The water retained in 333 reservoirs in Guangxi is about 4.19 billion cubic meters, 0.95 billion cubic meters less than last year.

The drought in the neighboring province, Guangdong, is also severe. A videoconference for "Fighting the Drought" was held last Friday in Guangzhou, the capital city.

The report issued by the conference members stated that the drought had hit more than 1.2 million acres of arable land. In the whole province, 889,000 people are relying on a discon-

tinuous supply of drinking water. The water stored in 303 reservoirs is 14.4 billion cubic meters, 1.5 billion cubic meters less than in 2003.

"Water is extremely important for crops in two phases, the time when crops are planted and the time when they bloom. A little drop of water can decide whether grain is plump or dry", Hu Chongguang, deputy director of Guangzhou Agricultural Bureau told *Yangcheng Evening News*, a Guangdong-based newspaper. He said now was the very time for crops to be in bloom; however, none of the grains harvested were fat. He said, "Even if we had water now, it would not change anything. The drought has destroyed farmers' half a year of hard work."

Disaster alleviation

The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region government says it has spent 58.6 million yuan on fighting the drought, buying 170,000 pumps to irrigate 67 thousand acres of land.

The Guangdong provincial government has sent task forces across the province. For instance, in Guangzhou, a task force went to drought-hit places such as Conghua, Zengcheng and Baiyun. The Guangdong provincial government has also allocated 700,000 yuan to disaster relief.

Self-help

"We began to notice the drought at the end of September", said by Li Nengjian, director of Zhongxin town in Zengcheng, Guangzhou. He said since then villagers have been

dredging ditches. Each household is participating in digging wells. With pumps and diesel oil provided by Guangzhou Government, they are ready to irrigate thirsty crops.

In Aotou Town, Guangzhou, the most severely hit place in the city, the town government has spent 264 thousand yuan on 85 pumps and eight tons of diesel oil.

In Yuanling village, Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, Peng Guoguang drained his fishpond to provide water for the villagers. Peng and his wife are laid-off workers and they borrowed 90-thousand-yuan loans this spring to contract a 4.9 acre fishpond.

The fish in the pond were the hope of his family. In the meantime, the drought has placed crops in the village in danger of death. Peng knew that the only way to save the crops was to drain water from his own fishpond and he also understood that for his poor family with two children and 80-year-old parents, the loss was unbearable.

But he and his wife finally decided to drain water from their pond to save the other villagers. More than 2,000 catfish died and Peng has lost almost 30,000 yuan. "But the crops are saved", he told *Yangcheng Evening News*.

Farmers in the drought-hit areas are worried about what they should plant in the winter. With regard to their doubts, Hu Chongguang, deputy director of Guangzhou Agricultural Bureau suggested, "In general, farmers earn more money from

planting vegetables than rice. Therefore, we advise them to plant some vegetables."

Cause of drought

Experts from Guangxi Observatory told Xinhua News Agency that from April to September this year, the flood season of the region, rainfall was only 60 percent — 80 percent of that in 2003. Another reason was that during the flood season, a typhoon did not hit Guangxi at all, which is very rare. Normally, the typhoon brings one third of the annual rainfall.

Their counterparts in Guangdong revealed that during the flood season this year, the typhoon also did not hit the province. When the weak tropical storms hit Guangdong, the rainfall was quite limited. For example, when tropical storm Compass hit Guangdong on July 16, it brought only 12 millimeters of rainfall to Guangzhou. In the whole province, rainfall this year has dropped at least 10 percent.

They also mentioned the extremely high summer temperatures were another factor leading to the drought. The highest temperature of 39.1°C broke the record in Guangdong. The continuous heat and increased use of water intensified the problem.

The meteorologists in these two provinces fear rainfall cannot increase dramatically over the next few weeks. Instead, the drought will probably extend into winter and affect winter planting and spring ploughing and planting next year.



French Year Ushers in Flurry of Events

By Peng Juan

The long-awaited grandiose Year of French Culture in China kicked off on October 10, with the staging of an electro-laser concert by French musician Jean Michel Jarre at the front gate, or Meridian Gate, of the Forbidden City.

The concert, accompanied by an 85-member Chinese symphony orchestra, a traditional music orchestra and a choir of 72 Chinese singers, brought together the ancient culture of China and the modern culture of France. Surrounded by 10 giant screens, dazzling lasers and bathed in electro-acoustic sound, with holographic images of the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe to boot,

the Forbidden City turned into a symbol of East meeting West.

Besides Jarre's concert, there are four other main events – Exhibition on the Life of Charles de Gaulle, French Design Art Show, French Impressionist Painting Show and China-France Sword-play Contest, hailing the Year of France.

The Year of French Culture, scheduled to last until July 2005, centers on the theme of Romantic, People-oriented and Innovative.

As in the eyes of most Chinese, France is simply “romantic” and little else, the last two ideas might take time. The music, dance, drama, movies, arts and even cuisines to be showcased in China will present the essence of French

culture to the Chinese.

But France is not just romantic. It is a modern country, a country with advanced industry, agriculture, science and technology and education, a country that is full of vigor and creativity. Patrouille de France, the French stunt flying team, has spectators in their spectacular display of precision flying and ballet “dance” in the air over the Simatai section of the Great Wall.

About 200 cultural activities planned include concerts, exhibitions, film festivals, an entire symphony orchestra, and lectures and symposiums on law, literature, architecture and technology, in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Wuhan,

Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

China and France, hubs of Oriental and Occidental heritage, have a continuous cultural dialogue. The launch of the Year of French Culture comes at the end of the Year of Chinese Culture in France from October 2003 to July 2004 that showcased in France the best of Chinese dance, art and education. Themed “Ancient China, Diversified China and Modern China”, the Year of China was the largest and longest cultural event ever held by China outside its territory, scoring a great success.

This is the first time that China has participated in any such exchange and also the first time for France to hold such a huge cultural activity abroad.



Daniel Buren

By Li Ruijen

French artist Daniel Buren presented his installation *From the Heaven to the Temple* at the Temple of Heaven as a main exhibition for the Year of French Culture. In 1986, he participated in the Venice Biennale as a representative of French artists and won the Golden Lion Award. For interview, Buren spoke French, simultaneously translated into English.

“The sunshine of late autumn is soft and warm, casting a golden light on the blue roof of the Temple of Heaven. On the long alley of Danbi Bridge, 230 striped flags wave and dance to the rhythm of the wind.

The flags with white and blue strips are my work, reminding me

Daniel Buren – From the Heaven to the Temple

of my early attempts at art on the streets of Paris. That was 34 years ago, on a dark evening, when I painted similar colored stripes on the walls along the streets and avenues, enjoying a feeling of freedom. I was critical of the art world, unsatisfied that only those who pay can gain access to publishing themselves. Normal people are forced to accept this and lose their creativity. So I used my own way to tell them the importance of imagination.

The roof of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest is shining in the golden sunlight, which forms a triangle behind the crimson wall.

In front of the huge and tremendous gate, an alley of exactly 360 meters runs straight, appearing like a triangle. For this, I designed 230 flags also with triangles on them to meld with this stable, perfect structure.

The architecture around the site is so perfect and wonderful that when I was first invited to show my art here as a part of the French Year, I hesitated to disturb that tranquility and perfection. However, it was such a huge temptation for me to try the Temple of Heaven, which I consider the most mysterious and logical architecture in all

of China. So I came at last, unable to resist the attraction of the beautiful place, although at a risk of destroying its beauty.

After several months' efforts, when the flags were fluttering on the tall masts, I stood at the beginning of the Danbi Bridge and felt a surge of mixed feelings.

I could not help smiling when I overheard one person describe the flags as those of the emperor's army. I was really surprised at this opinion, which I had never had before. However, wasn't that what I wanted, to inspire my audience and to make space in their mind for imagination?”

Photo by Bao Wei

Fan Di'an – Design Combines Tradition and Innovation

By Song Yin

Professor Fan Di'an is vice president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Before working as the curator (Chinese side) of the Design d'en France exhibition, Fan has worked on the Shanghai Biennale 2002, 25th Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo, 50th La Biennale di Venezia and other exhibitions shown in France as part of the Chinese Culture Year programs. Fan was interviewed in Chinese.

“On the French side, they chose the theme of Year of French Culture as “Romance, Innovation and People-oriented”. An exhibition about French design history for a whole century would be the best embodiment of this topic. In fact, “Innovation” and “People-oriented” are the strong points of French design.

On the Chinese side, Chinese design has rapidly developed in the last decade. We are eager to know more about the character and experience of foreign design.

I think Chinese people have knowledge of French paintings, sculpture and modern art from the 19th century, but still know little about the design arts which influence French life, especially their creativity unifying ancient and modern, science and technology, utility and beauty. As the curator of the Chinese side, I think



Fan Di'an

Photo by Bao Wei

the exhibition will be a novel and important one for Chinese audiences.

French design also tells us that successful design is always a combination of tradition and innovation, science and technology. China has a long history, and there are a lot of design resources in the Chinese cultural tradition that should be recognized and combined with modern concepts.

Each exhibit has a story behind it. Design not only derives from the inspiration, enthusiasm and personality of the designer, but also goes on to influence the cultural psychology of society.”

Nadine Nolot – Hutongs are So Cute!

By Pan Hao

Nadine Nolot was costume designer for the opera *Romeo and Juliet* performed by the Shanghai Opera Chorus and the China Philharmonic Orchestra last Thursday. Nolot spoke to Beijing Today almost entirely in French, simultaneously translated into English.

“This was my first trip to Beijing. First, Beijing is really big, such a massive city! By contrast, I live in a small place in France more like the countryside. Obviously, it is totally different.

Second, I do love the people living here. They are very friendly indeed, and I always can see them smiling, which makes me feel so comfortable.

Finally, I went to the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square. They are simply tremendous. However, what really appeals to me are the hutongs you can find in a few places in this city. The way they were built is so stylish and unique, and look really cute:

full of vitality. These were my favorites, and I just cannot see them enough.

Personally, I do think it's a good idea to encourage the residents of the two countries to visit each other, since there are many Chinese people who have never been to France and never seen what France actually is. And I believe that if you really want to know about one country's culture you have to be in that particular country by yourself. In the same way, that also applies to French people. So hopefully, we will see many more Chinese visitors touring France in the future.

The opera on the 14th was just a beginning of the Seventh Beijing International Music Festival and one of the events for the Year of French Culture. We would be glad to see more and more communication and exchange between the two countries in the arts, entertainment and other cultural territories.”



Nadine Nolot (left) with her colleagues Alain, Vanessa and Jean-Louis

Photo by Pan Hao

By Yu Shanshan

The French musician hosted a giant sound-and-light extravaganza as the opening show of the Year of French Culture in the Forbidden City on October 10. Jarre also visited China in 1981. Jarre began his career experimenting with electro-acoustic sounds, putting French synthesizer music on the map in 1976 with his best-selling album “Oxygene.”

He told Rfimusique.com “What I love about this city is the fact people take their pet birds to sing in the parks and get together to form open-air choirs. In Chinese culture, people have a direct contact with sound. There's no barrier between them and the music – and that's exactly what I'm trying to do in my work!” He spoke entirely in English for this interview with Beijing Today.

“Twenty-three years ago, when I held my first show in Beijing, the experience was as much of a culture shock for me as it was for my audience. I was like this Martian who'd just beamed down to Planet China. Everyone in the audience was sitting there goggle-eyed.

They just stared and stared at me throughout the entire show. A Chinese friend of mine told me due to the shortage of electric power in Beijing at that time, in order to satisfy my electric needs, many universities in the surrounding area had their power cut off temporarily.



Jean Michel Jarre

But this time around, we had enough electricity and from this one point, you can see the big change in this country, although I am also stunned by the great changes in the arts, architecture and so on.

Personally, it's a dream come true. I was always hoping to create a musical effect that 5.1 Dolby surround sound technology can provide, and this dream was realized in Beijing.

**Jean Michel Jarre –
Is it not delightful to have
friends come from afar?**

The concert was a genuine collaboration between French and Chinese artists, with everyone from graphic designers to musicians. One hundred artists from France and many Chinese artists joining their hands in the concert.

The participation of Chinese artists was vital to the event, and the Beijing Symphony Orchestra was one of the best symphony orchestras I've ever seen.

I hope, through cooperation between artists, Chinese traditional musical instruments and digital synthesizing technology, we can connect the modern and the traditional tightly together. Thus this concert was very special, something I've never done before.

With my sound-and-light-music, I wish to bring Chinese people the “liberty, equality and fraternity” of France's three colors.”

Photo by Imaginechina



Impressionists Impress China

By Qiu Lin

Since its opening on October 10, an exhibition of impressionist treasures from France has attracted up to 12,000 a day to the China Art Gallery. The exhibition, titled Impressionistic Treasure from the National Collection of France, is one of the key events of the Year of French Culture.

"This important exhibition will improve the cultural exchange between the East and the West and promote mutual friendship between the peoples of China and France," Pu Tong, a senior official with the Ministry of Culture said at a press conference for the opening of the exhibition.

The exhibition features 51 French impressionist paintings, including 11 works by Monet; five by Sisley; four by Degas; four by Renoir; three by Manet; and seven by Pissarro. Of these, Manet's *The Fifer*, Degas' *The Dancing Class*, Monet's *Rouen Cathedral* and Renoir's *Torso* are among the best known impressionist mas-

terpieces. *The Fifer* is estimated to be worth 500 million yuan, making it the most valuable of the 51 paintings.

"The French side collected the works for the show over the past three months. Most of the paintings are from the Musee d'Orsay, a national museum specializing in modern arts. They designed the exhibition specially for Chinese audiences," Pu said at the press conference.

Impressionism developed in France in the late 19th century as a reaction against academic tradition and romanticism. The term itself comes from a painting by Monet titled *Impression: Sunrise* - a view of the port of Le Havre in the mist - and was used by an unsympathetic critic to dismiss the new movement.

According to Yuan Yunsheng, a professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and one of the organizers of the exhibition, Monet probably intended the title to refer to the sketchy, unfinished look of the work. However,



Manet's *The Fifer* is one of the best known Impressionist paintings on show at the exhibition.

Photo by Tian Xiaotong

the word was quickly taken up by critics that supported the new movement, who used it in an alternative sense to mean the impression stamped on the senses by a visual experience that is rapid and transitory, associated with a particular moment in time.

Beginning in the late 1860s and culminating in 1872-75, impressionists chose to paint outdoors, recording the rapidly changing conditions of light and atmosphere and their responses to nature. They used high-key colors and a variety of brush strokes, which allowed them to be responsive both to the material character and texture of the object in nature and to the impact of light on its surfaces.

"Thirty years ago, I fell in love with impressionism when I was studying painting," Yang Zixun, president of Harbin's Jiamusi Art Academy, told *Beijing Today*. Yang came all the way from Harbin to see the exhibition.

Zhang Wenhan, an art student from the affiliated high

school of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, who was sketching in front of Degas' *Portraits a la Bourse*, said, "I love the bright color and the light and the vitality of impressionistic paintings," adding, "I came here yesterday. I came here today, and I'm going to come again tomorrow. This exhibition is fantastic!"

Feng Yuan, curator of the China National Museum of Fine Arts, says in a press release few Chinese had the chance to see impressionist paintings first hand until the 1970s. He believes this exhibition will set a precedent in the history of culture exchange between China and other countries.

Admission to the gallery is 20 yuan, as always. To give visitors a better understand of the paintings, the gallery has invited art experts to give lectures, and is also organizing special tours for students.

The exhibition is on until November 27, and will then travel to Shanghai and to Hong Kong.

100 Years of French Design

By Song Yin

France might well be the most fashionable place in the world, and surely the most fashion conscious. For the French, the idea of fashion is inseparable from daily life, or so it seems at least to those of us with a fascination with all that is French.

Fashion and design represent, in one way or another, the character of France, and some of the best examples of this character can be seen in the Design d'en France exhibition at the National Museum of China.

The more than 220 exhibits come mainly from the Pompidou Center and the Musée d'Orsay and other museums. The designers of the exhibition have arranged all the works into a structure that combines a chronological component with two special topics on architecture and apparel.

Since it opened on October 10, the exhibition has attracted over 2,000 visitors daily.

The exhibition hall is capacious and lofty, and the dark tones of the interior emphasize the elegance of French culture. The first age shown is the period from 1900 to 1924. A world expo was held in Paris in 1900, representing France's stepping into a new century. The first work featured is the entrance to a metro station designed by Hector Guimard. The flowering foliage sculptured on the facade reflects the trend of the "new arts movement" at the beginning of last century.

Le Nigel (vase) and La Berce des prés (chairs) were

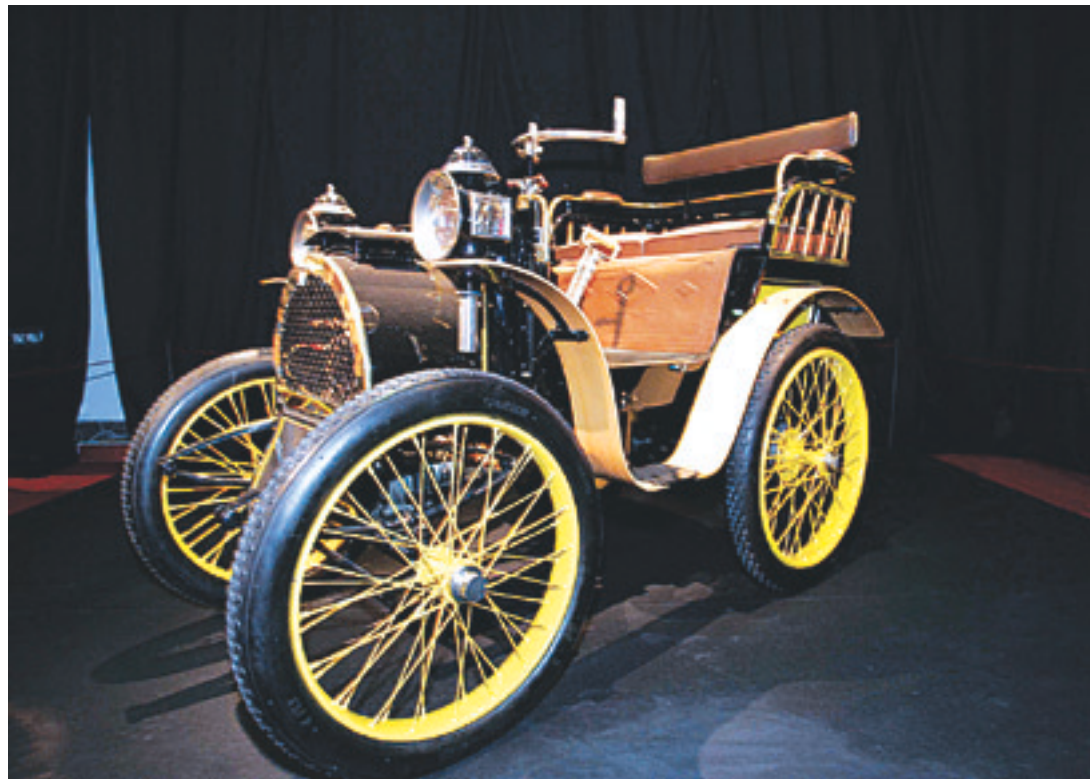


Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

glasses designed by Emile Gallé, a member of an industry arts alliance in Nancy working together with the Daum brothers, Louis Majorelle and Victor Prouvé. They considered sensibility as the bedrock of all their motivations. Emile Gallé said in one of his books that from simple curves to complicated details, the decoration of contemporary furniture should reflect life.

The second part is from 1925 to 1949, the Age of Modern Invention. This is the age of conflict and integration between conventionalism and modernity. World War I triggered increasing exploration in the fields of science and technology, the commu-

nication industry made rapid advances, the telephone became popular in France almost overnight after it became available in 1930.

The third period is Leisure and Consumption, from 1950 to 1979. The 2CV Citroen, created by engineer André Lefebvre and designer Flaminio Bextoni was a hit in the auto market. The Novex Siebert electric iron and also the radio alarm clock showed their emblematical streamline style. Meanwhile silk-stockings and other clothing designed by Chanel and Yves Saint-laurent ushered in a new age of elegant fashion that continues to this day.

The fourth section, 1980 to

2000, focuses on the period in which the design of arts began to infiltrate into the high-tech sector. From the Batyscaphe submarine to Ariane carrier rocket, we can see the combination between technology and humanism.

The last section of the exhibition gives a glimpse of how contemporary French designers see the future, with projects such as the Airbus A380 and the planned Musée du quai Branly, due to be completed in 2007.

From the exhibits, we may see the classical design of Art Nouveau and Art Deco in the early 20th century, the design innovation in the progress of industrialization after 1960,

and the increasingly individualized style after 1980, says one of the Chinese curators of the exhibition Fan Di'an.

No other form of design can better reflect culture idealism, artistic awareness and science and technology together more than architecture. Some 20 architectural pictures and 10 models are on show in the exhibition, including the Centre Georges-Pompidou (1977), Cité de la Musique, Paris (1996), the Pyramid of Musée du Louvre (1989) and Bibliothèque Nationale de France (1997). These are examples of cultural, not commercial architecture, according to Fan Di'an. The designs are formally unconventional but do reflect convention in cultural spirit.

Compared to architecture, clothing design is closer to people's daily life and aesthetic taste. The 38 pieces of clothing displayed along the 40-meter exhibition window form the epitome of French clothing design in the past 100 years. Walking down the hall is like walking down the Champs Elysees and coming across world-renowned brands, one after another.

Thrown into the storm of French design covering the period of one century, visitors can obtain a rough but genuine feeling of the exuberance and profundity of French design, which is the fruit of history, of people's perpetual creativity and the vitality of living arts.

Design d'en France is at the National Museum of China until November 19.



Photo by Bao Wei

Flags Fly at Temple of Heaven

By Li Ruifen

Some 230 striped flags have given a new appearance to Beijing's Temple of Heaven. Created by French conceptual artist Daniel Buren, the exhibition brings together a representative figure of contemporary art with one of the most recognizable examples of ancient architecture in China.

The talented French artist has created a harmonious juxtaposition of old and new. Walking along the central axis of the Temple of Heaven, the blue and white striped flags appear sud-

denly and unexpectedly. The 230 flags follow the logical layout of the Temple of Heaven, according to the artist, lining the 360-meter central axis. Using five shades of blue on the flags, Buren tries to make a connection between the blue sky and the blue roof of the temple's Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest.

Since the 1960s, Buren has completed a series of works using striped material, similar to those of this exhibition, however the Temple of Heaven has provided him with a much broader canvas for his invention.

The Life of Charles De Gaulle

By Sabu

An exhibition based on the life of Charles De Gaulle is currently under way at the Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument, titled *A Man Who Rode the Wind*.

One of the most prominent historical figures of the 20th century, De Gaulle was not only a dedicated soldier, a brilliant strategist and the president of the Fifth French Republic, but also the founder of Sino-French relationship. On June 27, 1964, Chairman Mao Zedong and General De Gaulle signed a historic agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries. Mao once described De Gaulle as "an unyielding soldier who fights against Fascism."

There are 40 items on show, categorized into three sections:



Photo by Sabu

De Gaulle's Life, De Gaulle and the Law, and De Gaulle and China. The multimedia exhibition uses pictures, audio, video and 3D images to create a vivid sense of interaction with this larger than life figure. Documentaries include a celebration of the 40-year Sino-French relationship, De Gaulle - the Mission of the Century, and De Gaulle - the Leading Man of Modern Sino-French Dialogue.

There are also featurettes showing the call to the resistance in 1940 and the liberation of Paris. Real objects presented are De Gaulle's baptismal gown, the saber he used while at the Saint-Cyr Military Academy, two service uniforms from 1940 and 1969, a reproduction of his office in Paris and his two Citroen cars.

The exhibition is on until November 10.

Coming Exhibitions

Andree Putman Industrial Design Exhibition

Where: China National Museum of Fine Arts
When: November 15-30



Rendezvous France

Where: International Exhibition Center
When: April 24-July 16, 2005

During a 60-minute visit, visitors will be introduced to the history, architecture, culture, arts, economy, industry and technology of France. The exhibition is divided into three parts: first, a virtual tour of Paris; then, take a high-speed-train (TGV) to visit other provinces, witnessing the natural landscape, nature protection technology, folk customs, cuisine and other arts in daily life; finally, come back to Place de France, where you might take a nap, drink coffee and shop, experiencing the real French lifestyle.



Visions Francaises

When: from July 13, 2005

In the past 15 years, more and more French architects have made contributions to Chinese urban architecture, blending French color with Chinese city development. The architecture exhibition will showcase these designs in China, as well as some representative design works in France of recent tens of years. The main exhibition will be divided into public infrastructure, offices, residential buildings, city landscape and durable development.



King Louis XIV Exhibit

Where: Palace Museum (Forbidden City)
When: May-June, 2005

Born in 1638 and crowned at the age of five, Louis XIV was France's longest-serving king. During his reign, he was praised for his achievements in economic affairs as well as administration and the arts. During the Year of Chinese Culture in France, China staged an exhibition honoring the Qing Dynasty emperor Kangxi. During the Year of French Culture in China, King Louis XIV will be honored in the same way. The exhibition will be divided into three parts: personal history, royal family and the king of the flourishing age (especially centering on Versailles from 1682-1715).



New Wave Exhibition

When: April 15-May 31, 2005

Showcasing artistic achievement in France over the past 60 years, this exhibition includes painting, photography and film. The exhibition will feature excerpts of films by Jean Luc Godard, and work by artists using motion and stationary visual technology.

The 12th Beijing International Book Fair

When: September 1-5, 2005

Napoleon Exhibition

Where: Millennium Museum
When: January 2005

Chateau de Versailles will provide all the exhibits for the Napoleon Exhibition, organized by Comité Colbert, among which are Jacques-Louis David's 1800 painting Napoleon at St. Bernard and the 1927 film Napoleon directed by Abel Gance, which will be screened in the exhibition hall.

Picasso-Miro Exhibition

Where: Millennium Museum
When: February 2005

Will display 24 sculptures by Miro and 17 clayworks by Picasso.

Bestegui Collection Exhibition

Where: The National Museum of China
When: January 2005



By Pan Hao
Whistling, flowers and applause followed the final curtain of a French production of Gounod's five-act opera *Romeo and Juliet* at the Poly Theater last week.

People came from all corners of the city to see the classic opera presented by Theatre du Capitole de Toulouse. The cast was led by soprano Inva Mula and tenor Zhang Jianyi, and featured the Shanghai Opera chorus and China Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yu Long. Inva Mula in the role of Juliet was definitely star of the night. Her delightful voice won frequent enthusiastic applause, and her many solos highlighted the depth of her talent. The fact that few in the audience could understand the French libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carre did not hamper their enjoyment of her performance in the least. Conductor Yu Long also received warm applause when he took his bow. Under his direction, the orchestra created a vivid atmosphere, eloquently highlighting the joy, anger and sorrow of the tragic love story.

"The China Philharmonic Orchestra was absolutely fantastic!" said pianist Shi Shucheng, "they did a quite remarkable work tonight!" He told *Beijing Today* after the performance that in his mind, the music of *Romeo and Juliet* is not easy to perform and even harder to win praise for, as it is so familiar to so many people, even the smallest mistake will not go unnoticed. However he added that the audience "could have expected more from the chorus. I think maybe because the Shanghai Opera Chorus did not have more time to rehearse before the performance - they did well, it was just not perfect."

Two audience members from Australia said they enjoyed the opera very much, "Everything was great," they told *Beijing Today*. Their only criticism was that the Chinese surtitles, shown on a screen above the stage, were difficult to read. Another couple, Wang Yu and Li Jing, keen opera buffs, said they enjoyed the music, but would like to have seen more acting, "We can feel the emotion from Inva Mula's eyes, but Zhang Jianyi seemed a little reserved," Wang Yu told *Beijing Today*.

Romeo and Juliet Sing



Tenor Zhang Jianyi and soprano Inva Mula as Romeo and Juliet.

Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

Coming Events

Retrospective Exhibition of French Film

The French Film Archive will provide films from the 1930s to today, and also organize talks by contemporary directors, actors and technicians.

Where: Dianying Ziliaoguan (China Film Archive)
When: January 2005

Second French Film Festival

Where: not decided
When: April 2005



French National Youth Choeur (A Coeur Joie)

Where: Central Conservatory of Music
When: April 25, 2005



Transmusicales

What began as a quaint, French music festival in 1979 by bored university students has now evolved into a two-day feast for the senses. Rock, pop, hip-hop, jazz acts and more will take the stage in summer 2005. And in July 2005 the music festival's director Jean-Louis Brosard plans to bring the event to Beijing.

Where: Ritan Park
When: 1-2 July, 2005

Orchestre de Paris to Present French Music Gem

By Jacqueline Yu

Under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach, the Paris Orchestra will debut in China next week, performing masterpieces by French composers Berlioz, Ravel and Dutilleux. As an official event of the Year of French Culture in China, the concert will also feature the Chinese National Orchestra and music by Chinese composer Bright Sheng.

The program for the first concert, on October 28, includes Bright Sheng's *Flute Moon*, Henri Dutilleux's *L'arbre des songes*, and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2*, *La Valse* and *Bolero*.

Bright Sheng's *Flute Moon* is scored for solo flute and piccolo, harp, piano, percussion and string orchestra. Composed of two movements, *Qi-lin's Dance* and *Flute Moon*, the piece is strongly evocative of traditional Chinese culture.

While the titles of the two movements conjure up strong visual and literary images, Sheng says they are used only to convey the general character of each piece. Qilin is the mythological Chinese unicorn, a scaly, monstrous-looking but benevolent creature. It is said every time it appears, the dynasty is at its most prosperous and peaceful.

The second movement, *Flute Moon*, is based on a melody by the poet and composer Jiang Kui (1155-1235) of the Song Dynasty. The song's lyrics tell of an elderly flautist reflecting wistfully on the time of his youth when the fragrance of flowers inspired him to sing of love. Sheng has borrowed the melody accompanying Jiang's text, imbedding it in the piece's ornamental flute solos, then reprises it as a simple folk tune toward the end.

Shanghai-born Bright Sheng (1955-) went to study in New York in 1982 and is now one of the world's most prominent Chinese-born composers. Sheng states that *Flute Moon* represents a new direction in his stylistic development, with less emphasis on folk tunes and pentatonic harmonies to convey the Chinese character of a given work.

On October 30, Christoph Eschenbach and the orchestra will present Marc-André Dalbavie's *Double Jeu* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. *Double Jeu* is composed especially for the China-France Cultural Year and was performed in France last October, as part of the Year of Chinese Culture in France.

Double Jeu is a five-part song cycle for Chinese and Western musical instruments and soprano. The lyrics are based on a collection of poems by American poet Ezra Pound (1885-1972), called *Separation on the River Kiang*. Pound was influenced by Chinese poems from the Tang Dynasty, and the work has a unique flavor of combined Chinese and Western classical culture, as does the music itself.

The most arresting moment in the work comes with a meditative antiphonal rocking figure passed between the Western and Eastern string sections: each playing blocks of sound with a Zen-like repetitiveness that prompts contemplation of how those sounds embody similarities and differences in their respective cultures.

Where: Poly Theatre
When: October 28 and 30
Tickets: 50 - 1,000 yuan, October 28; 50 - 680 yuan, October 30
Tel: 6506 5343



Christoph Eschenbach will conduct the Paris Orchestra's debut performance in China.

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By Peng Juan

Local gourmands; mouths may already water at the mere mention of April 24, 2005. On that day, a sumptuous lunch of French food will be served on the Great Wall in a public activity expected to be a delectable highlight of the Year of French Culture in China.

Literally tens of thousands of people will be invited to sit at huge tables at the foot of the Great Wall and tuck into a scrumptious spread of French delicacies that will consist of appetizers and main courses accompanied by wine and entertainments such as children's shows, stilt performers, circus acts and fashion shows.

France's celebrated cuisine is one of the country's great treasures and the French have an ongoing and ever-changing love for food and the very act of eating.

Gad Weil, organizer of next year's event, said the "great lunch" would not be the first of its kind, as a similarly massive feast was held along Paris's famed avenue the Champs Elysee on French National Day of 2000, drawing tens of thousands of French to indulge, sing, dance and celebrate.

The local public picnic is considered a key event towards the fulfillment of the themes of the Year of French Culture: people-oriented, romantic and innovative.

Other big events intended to expose thousands of people in China to French culture during the 10-month festivities include the opening ceremony at the Forbidden City, the dramatic aerial performance of the Patrouille de France, the renowned aerobatics team of the French air force, and huge fireworks displays by French pyrotechnical wizards Group F in several major domestic cities.

French Feast on the Wall



Picture provided by Dai Jieru

Bright Lights, Big City

By Peng Juan

The night sky of Shanghai came alive with color last Friday evening with the huge firework show A Little More Light at Shanghai Century Park.

The pyrotechnical display was held to celebrate the launch of the Shanghai arm of the Year of French Culture in China and to mark the start of the Sixth Shanghai International Arts Festival.

No mere light show, the dramatic event organized and presented by France's Group F Co. combined dazzling fireworks, music and performances into an awe-inspiring fairy tale. In the story, a god steals the sun and it turns into three colors, red, gold and white, before the deity relents and returns the sun to the people of Earth.

On an eight-meter-high stage, performers dressed as wizards pretended to try to forge a new sun by refining materials from fire itself. Flames shot high into the air as if out of a volcano while two musicians played improvised pieces on cello and saxophone.

The Group F pyrotechnics masterminds, who designed the firework shows for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens Olympics as well as those



Photo by Dai Jieru

at the Barcelona Games in 1992 and the 1998 World Cup, will take their show on the road and perform in several other major Chinese cities, including Wuhan and Chengdu. The last event in their China tour will be staged in Macao on December 20.

The Shanghai side of the Year of French Culture, scheduled to run through next July, will feature more than 50 cultural projects offering prime examples of French art, music, fashion and architecture, 12 of which will be run in conjunction with the Sixth Shanghai International Arts Festival.

Culture Center Unveiled in Capital

By Peng Juan

Connections between Beijing and France became closer on October 10 with the unveiling of the French Culture Center, a key program in the Year of French Culture in China, by Bernadette Chirac, wife of French President Jacques Chirac.

Mrs. Chirac hit a gong to formally recognize the center's opening at a ceremony attended by a French government delegation and their Chinese counterparts headed by Chinese Vice Minister of Culture Zhou Heping.

The two-storey facility, which stands at 18 Gongti Xilu in Chaoyang District, is the first foreign culture center established in China. It was designed by celebrated French architect Charpentier, whose other works include the Shanghai Grand Theatre and Nanjing Road Pedestrian Mall, and construction began early this year.

The French Culture Center features a multi-media library, cafe, movie theater, language center and French study consulting area open to all Chinese, though especially targeted at students.

The library's shelves are filled with original books and magazines in French, while colorful computer-run exhibitions



Photo by Bao Wei

on French achievements in industries, architecture, art, music, film and fashion are available at dozens of terminals. Personally-tailored French language courses can be organized for students of different skill levels, from beginners to advanced speakers.

The center was set up in accordance to an agreement signed by the Chinese and French governments in 2002 pledging to establish culture centers in both countries to boost bilateral cultural exchange. The China Culture Center in Paris was inaugurated on December 29 last year.

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Cultivating Creative, Critical Thinkers

By Zhang Nan

The University of Calgary in the Canadian province of Alberta offers a first-class education in a thriving urban environment.

This Monday, *Beijing Today* interviewed the vice-chancellor of the university, Dr. Harvey P. Weingarten, during his fifth visit to China.

Weingarten said that a priority in the university's academic plan was to continue to enrich the quality of its undergraduate programs and students' experiences. "We are dedicated to offering a learning-centered academic experience rooted in an understanding of research and multidisciplinary inquiry. As a result, University of Calgary graduates have the ability to examine difficult problems, explore various innovative and effective solutions from diverse perspectives, think critically, communicate clearly, and become effective, contributing members of society."

BT: What is the purpose of your trip to China?

Weingarten: We've come to China this time to expand our collaborations. We have relationships with various universities in China and some energy companies. We are here to expand these collaborations and to seek new ones that would allow more Chinese students to come to the University of Calgary, and also provide opportunities for some Canadian students for exchange, meaning to come to China.

We will sign agreements. We will have discussions with Tsinghua University, for example, with whom we have practical collaboration.

BT: What kind of partners does the University of



Dr. Harvey P. Weingarten
Photo by Zhang Nan

Calgary have in China?

Weingarten: We have signed 24 agreements in China, mostly with Chinese universities. The rest are with some energy companies, to whom we provide professional training.

BT: The University of Calgary, as a top research university in Canada, stresses innovation, discovery and learning. Could you introduce how your university puts these concepts into practice?

Weingarten: During their studies, students have to memorize and learn new information and then take that information and put it together in different, creative ways to come up with interesting and effective solutions to difficult problems.

We also provide students with opportunities to actually get involved in research in the university. Many of our students, especially graduate level students, have chances to do research, ask questions of and work with faculty members, and thereby expand their personal discoveries and learn to think along creative lines.

BT: Different countries



The University of Calgary campus lies within easy access of downtown Calgary.

Photos provided by the University of Calgary

have different educational systems. What do you think are the features of a good educational system?

Weingarten: One of the characteristics is that students should learn a lot about their field of study. And so by the end of their program, it doesn't matter if people study music or history or science, they should have learned a lot about their fields of study and know the latest information in their areas.

BT: What do you think students should learn in school besides academic knowledge?

Weingarten: Students have to learn how to be critical thinkers, how to solve problems that they could never imagine they would encounter. They have to collect information, use information, analyze information and communicate and work with each other.

If during their studies students learn how to solve problems, then it doesn't matter what they face, they will know what to do and how to do it.

BT: How many Chinese students are enrolled at your university?

Weingarten: There are around 500 Chinese students. The number of international students in our university is around 1,700, accounting for about five percent of the total student body.

China is the single largest

provider of students among our foreign student population.

BT: What kind of students are qualified to study in the University of Calgary?

Weingarten: Very good students.

Actually, the Chinese students in our university do very well. They are very highly motivated students, very smart, and they improve the work of our university.

We have several strategies for interaction with China. We have selected a group of universities in China, all top universities, for cooperation and hope to take in good students from them.

BT: How many subjects are offered at your university?

Weingarten: Our university has almost any program that a student might wish to take. Besides fine arts schools, we also have many professional schools. For example, we have a medical school, law school, architecture school, a very big business school, an engineering school and more.

BT: Are scholarships available?

Weingarten: We have scholarships, but only for students at post-graduate level or above.

BT: Do you have any suggestions for Chinese students preparing to study abroad?

Weingarten: Work hard, study hard and play hard. Studying abroad is a great opportunity to enjoy life, learn a lot and get international experience.

Notice

The China International Education Forum and Expo will be held over the weekend and *Beijing Today* will provide full coverage of the event to keep readers up on the latest trends and developments in studying abroad.

Special short reports will describe the strengths of the 10 country delegations from the UK, Australia, France, New Zealand, Germany, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey.

Don't miss it!

通知

本周末(10月23-24日),由教育部中教国际教育交流中心组织的第五届中国国际教育论坛暨展览将在北京举行。今日北京将对此盛会做详尽报道,告诉你留学的最新动态和趋势。

我们将向你介绍所有参展的十个国家的各自特点,包括:英国、澳大利亚、法国、新西兰、德国、新加坡、泰国、马来西亚、菲律宾、和土耳其。

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IELTS Sign-up Goes Online

By Zhang Nan

A new Web system run by the British Council and the National Education Examination Administration of China allows domestic students to conveniently sign up for the IELTS English examination and pay their examination fees online.

The website, which started operations this Monday, allows registered examinees to pay to take the IELTS exam in 2005, but will have no effect on exam content or the testing process itself.

Students signed up to take the test this year must still pay through traditional means.

Before the establishment of the website, students around

China had to sign up for the test through different methods. Local students were lucky because they could register directly through the official website of the Beijing Language and Culture University. Students in other areas had to stand in queues to register or sign up by phone, a potentially time and money consuming process.

"The new web system will be very convenient for students," said an employee in the marketing department of the Global IELTS School who would not give her name. "For example, students in Beijing from other parts of the country used to have to go back home to sign up and take the IELTS exami-

nation in their hometowns. But with the start of the new Web system, they can sign up from anywhere."

The address of the new website is <http://ielts.etest.edu.cn>. The site itself provides detailed instructions on using the system, but students who are confused or have trouble with the site can contact the national service hotline, (010) 8261 1615 for assistance.

Established by the British Council, IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge, IELTS (International English Language Testing System) was introduced to China in 1989. The test has expanded from five original testing centers in Chi-



Brendan McSharry (left), IELTS examination service director at the British Council China, and Zhao Lianghong, director of the NEEA, at Wednesday's launch of the online IELTS system in Beijing Photo by Ayi

na to 26 and nearly 90,000 Chinese students took the exam last year. That number is expected to exceed 100,000 this

year, according to Brendan McSharry, IELTS examination service director at the British Council China.

Ask Ayi:

Q: I want to go to New Zealand to continue my design study there. Which schools are better in New Zealand and how does the country rate worldwide in design?

— lily

A: New Zealand has eight state universities and a number of science and technology colleges that offer design courses. Your IELTS scores should be no less than seven and you should have some relevant work experience or a good portfolio.

But there is another way you could get enrolled. The preparatory school named Design and Art is very famous in the art field and its certificates are widely recognized. To apply for this school, you need an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher. The school's programs take different times - for example, the advertising design course takes around two years to complete.

The school also has relationships with state universities and colleges and can help students get into design and art programs at those schools. These universities and colleges offer applied design courses in such fields as advertising, architecture and interior decoration.

Q: I am planning to study computer game design either in Canada or the UK. Which country is better in the field, and what do I need to prepare?

— ele-ph

A: The UK has some good universities, such as the University of Glasgow, University of Birmingham, University of Abertay Dundee and Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

If you want to study in one of these universities, you should have well-rounded skills, meaning skills in your specialized field and language ability and scores of at least 6.5 on the IELTS test.

Tuition and living expenses should come in around 200,000 yuan a year, but remember you will need to have a bank deposit of 260,000 to 270,000 yuan to get a visa.

If you have a bachelor's degree, you will need two letters of recommendation from teachers, professors or work supervisors. If you are still studying, you will be asked to prove you are a student and give a complete report of your academic marks, as well as the two recommendations.

You can certainly further your education in Canada - the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of British Columbia and University of Alberta would be good choices. Figure on it taking about three months to get a Canadian visa.

Another choice would be to apply to joint programs here in China. You can request a list of joint programs from the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Just remember that those programs also will require you to take the TOEFL test before applying.

The educational systems of the UK and Canada have different strengths and weaknesses. Based on lower costs of living and tuition fees, many students choose Canada over the UK.

(Edited by Ruan Ying)

China, Russia to Ramp Up Student Exchange

By Zhao Hongyi

Leaders of the education ministries of China and Russia signed agreements last week to increase the number of government-sponsored students sent across the border by 100 each starting next year and reaching 500 each by 2008.

The number of self-supporting Chinese students heading to Russia has increased dramatically since 2000 to around 20,000. Most of them are studying Russian, music or art, as well as aviation engineering, aerospace science and advanced physics.

Moscow State University has proven the top destination, and currently more than 2,000 Chinese students are enrolled in the university. That figure is higher even than in the 1950s and 1960s, when China and the Soviet Union had close political ties. The university received an average of 600 Chinese students each year.

More than 5,000 Russians are currently studying in China, mostly focusing on the Chinese language.

Life on the Front Lines of Business

Secrets of successful secretaries

By Xie Lixue

The first people at most businesses with whom clients and potential customers have contact are secretaries. Their professionalism, therefore, can be a decisive factor in a company's success and reputation.

Yet much of the public seems stuck in the past, still thinking of secretaries though such out-dated clichés as their positions are low, badly paid and based more on looks than talent or ability. That is hardly the case for today's secretaries, now more often than not called executive assistants or coordinators and who are crucial elements in their bosses' success and need to possess an ever-widening range of skills to keep up in the competitive marketplace.

Secretaries no more

In China of the past, secretaries were considered their bosses' hands, mouths and ears, handling simple routine tasks such as taking phone calls, typing, sorting documents and keeping notes on meetings.

Those tasks may remain part of the job for some, but the idea that secretaries are ornamental and their most important qualifications their looks are passe.

In today's market, with increasing numbers of international corporations coming to China and Chinese enterprises ramping up to be more globally competitive in the face of China's World Trade Organization entry, secretaries have challenging, stimulating positions that call for people of real talent, experience and sound judgment.

Fan Lirong, vice-president of the China Senior Secretarial Association, said that secretaries at companies today should be called coordinators or assistants because they were often in charge of handling the affairs of a group of people, not just their direct superiors, therefore requiring them to possess diverse capabilities.

"Now in some foreign countries like Singapore and Malaysia, they have special ceremonies for recognizing excellent secretaries who have mastered office software, scheduling and coordination of people."

He Bingyi, vice executive president of the Beijing branch of Merrill Lynch Co. said she had



9 to 5 no more: secretaries are commanding respect commensurate with their skills in today's workplace.

Photo by Photocom

just such an assistant, who she also called an intimate friend and crucial teammate. "I can not work without her, because she knows my schedule even better than I do. She tells me what I have to handle today and what

I can move to tomorrow and reminds me when I have to give someone a call or meet someone for a business lunch."

Situation overseas

In many foreign countries, the secretarial field morphed

to be called executive management years ago.

These days, expectations of secretaries are higher than ever, and assistants need to possess five basic abilities to successfully do their jobs, as Shirley Taylor, examiner of executive management tests for the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board, was quoted as saying by *Jiefang Daily* in June.

The abilities that Taylor named are:

Language – Assistants in international enterprises should have high language proficiency, being able to speak at least one or preferably two foreign languages, to keep up with sweeping globalization trends.

Organization – Outstanding organization skills are a must, as assistants have to coordinate all kinds of activities, such as meetings, conferences and seminars, while also keeping track of daily work schedules, plans,

A Beijing-based English newspaper is looking for reporters, freelancers and editors.

Chinese applicants should have university degrees in English or related majors and media experience.

Foreigners from the UK and US with relevant media experience preferred.

Please send resumes and writing samples to: hr@ynet.com.

Four Useful Certificates

1. Secretarial appraisal by Ministry of Labor and Social Security

The Ministry's secretarial appraisal is the most common certificate in China and comes in primary, medium and advanced levels.

Certification is based on performance in tests of business regulations, basic secretarial knowledge and practical skills. The next test session will be held on November 6.

2. Cambridge International Diploma in Office Administration

The second-most popular certification in China recognizes secretaries' qualifications, especially ones relevant to foreign companies.

The requisite test checks skills in word processing, communication and project and office management. The next round will be held in November.

3. LCCIEB Secretarial Certificate

This global secretarial test is organized by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board.

There are four levels of exams in UK, but only the second and the third levels are available in China.

Because tests around the world are standardized, Chinese examinees have to answer all questions in English. Tests are held in March, April, June and November.

4. IAAP

IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals) has offices in Beijing and Shanghai, offering courses of business law, business behavior, management, secretarial skills, etc.

The actual tests take 12 hours, and candidates that pass will receive Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) certificates.

Jobs

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Personal Classifieds

Accommodation

US\$ 750 per month, 3 bedrooms, 1 nice living room. A nice kitchen as well. Sofa, bed, ADSL, Satellite TV, washing machine, microwave oven, refrigerator. Near Sihui Dong Subway station. Five minutes' walk to the big Lotus supermarket. Contact: 8345 1497 E-mail: pedecdjant@yahoo.com

An NGO employee is looking for a roommate to share a 2-bedroom apartment near the West Gate of Chaoyang Park. Wooden floor, kitchen, bathroom; telephone available. Contact: Mr. Yang, SMS his mobile: 1367 1141928, 6538 1881, snakepit@sohu.com

Language Exchange

Linda, female. I was born in Beijing. I am studying English. I am looking for a language partner. If you are studying Chinese, call me please. Contact: 6723 5495

A Chinese girl who just returned from France after four years' study in Paris is looking for a francophone language exchange partner. E-mail: lapindavril@yahoo.com.cn

A Chinese girl who is learning English and French wants to find a French native speaker for language exchange. Contact: gongqiongnet@sina.com

Lisa, 28, a business women working in Beijing, bachelor of traditional Chinese medicine, would like to find language exchange partner and make friends. E-mail: lisa6816565@yahoo.com.cn

Professional Help

Evelyn, a college student, wants to find a part-time job on Friday and Saturday. Teaching English or taking care of foreign children. Email: weiwei0107@163.com

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Performances

Chinese Modern Opera: *The Wager – at the Risk of Life*

Performed by the Symphony Orchestra of the Shanghai Opera House, the Shanghai Opera House Choir and the Children's Palace of China Welfare Foundation's Children's Choir, *The Wager – At the Risk of Life* is based on a novel by Gao Xiaosheng.

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimennan Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** tonight, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 30-380 yuan **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext. 5126

Master Hong Yi

Chinese language. About the life of artist Hong Yi. Directed by Hong Xiu, starring Zhou Long and Wang Jin.

Where: Experimental Theatre of Beijing People Art, 22 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** October 23-30, 7 pm **Admission:** 100-150 yuan **Tel:** 6513 5801



Exhibitions



Scandinavian Sparks – Swedish Art and Design in China

An exhibition of some of Sweden's most renowned contemporary artists and designers, including Martin Wickstrom, Maya Eizin, Carina Gardefjord and designers Jonas Bohlin and Gunilla Lagerhem-Ullberg. The 10-day event presents a rare opportunity to experience Swedish art, design and fashion, listen to Swedish and Chinese DJs playing side by side and be part of the interaction between artists and others from Sweden and China.

Where: 798 Space, Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang **When:** today through October 31, daily 10:30 am – midnight **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8596 9809

Yunnan Landscape Paintings

Ancient glyphs are one aspect of the ancient civilization of the Naxi people still remaining today. The fascinating culture of the Naxi is just one element of the people and places of Yunnan Province captured in these oil paintings by Liu Baojun and Liu Daxuan.

Where: Fafa Gallery, 1 Xiangjiang Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** daily 10:30 am – 8 pm till October 31 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8457 3506



Travels across Tibet

Painter Yu Xiaodong spent years researching religion and culture in Tibet, visiting all temples and living with local villagers. Yu's oil paintings feature bright and rich heavy colors, conveying the stunning natural beauty of Tibet and Tibetan culture.

Where: Qin Gallery, 1-1E Huawei Li, Enjoy Paradise, Chaoyang **When:** daily 9:30 am – 5 pm till October 31 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461



Colorful Chain from the Land of Snow – Tibetan Contemporary Art

With one of the most unique landscapes on the planet, Tibet has unparalleled mountain views and iridescent rivers, making it a wondrous magnet for people from all over the world. The plateau also is an endless source of artistic inspiration and has given rise to its own art traditions. In this show, 11 artists from Beijing unite their love of art and the

land of Tibet in works of unusual cultural character.

Where: Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Lu, Chaoyang **When:** daily 10 am – 7 pm till Sunday **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



Solo Christine Pellikan

Christine Pellikan studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and Munich and exhibited internationally. For over 20 years, Pellikan has created drawings, paintings, objects, sculptures, knife and scissor-cuttings, architectural-related installation, as well as, experimental super-8 films and book projects.

Where: 3818 Art Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi Art District, Chaoyang **When:** October 23-31, Tuesday – Sunday 11 am – 6:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8456 6664

Music



Deutsche Philharmonic China Concert

Led by the well-known pianist and conductor Justus Franz, Deutsche Philharmonic and Beijing Philharmonic will jointly perform works by Beethoven in the Forbidden City Concert Hall of Beijing.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, in Zhongshan Park **When:** October 25, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 40-800 yuan **Tel:** 6593 0299



Yo-Yo Ma Cello Recital

The world famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs George Gershwin's Three Preludes, Dimitri Shostakovich's Sonata in D minor, Op. 40 and Cesar Franck's Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano.

Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimennan Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** October 29, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 50-1,000 yuan **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext. 5126



Based on a more realistic portrayal of "Arthur" than has ever been presented onscreen. The film will focus on the history and politics of the period during which Arthur ruled.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** from tonight **Tel:** 6261 2851

Movies

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed

Directed by Raja Gosnell, starring Matthew Lillard, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Linda Cardellini, Freddie Prinze Jr. and Alicia Silverstone. The animated pooch detective returns. When Mystery Inc. opens a museum exhibit of costumes of their old foes, a new masked foe appears and steals everything – and before you know it, all the costumes come to life, chasing Fred, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy, and the computer-animated Scooby Doo all over Coolsville. It's no better or worse than the first Scooby Doo movie.

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** from tonight **Tel:** 6261 2851



Dazzling (Hua Yan)

Directed by Xin Lee, starring Wu Lala, Xu Jinglei, Mei Ting and Wang Xueying. Shot in Shanghai, the story is about Wu Gang (Wu Lala) who believes he can see something that only angels can see. As he sits in a park, waiting for a girl, he thinks of a series of people he has met during the day and imagines their stories.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303

Facing Windows

Directed by Ferzan Ozpetek, starring Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Raoul Bova and Filippo Nigro. Giovanna is a bookkeeper in a company which packs chickens. She is married to a man with a precarious job. First she starts being curious about a young man who lives in the block opposite hers, and then she falls in love with him. Their relationship becomes much stronger as she finds out more about him from an old man who bursts into their lives. The old man, obsessed with his memories of something that happened in the autumn of 1943, has lost his memory and finds refuge in Giovanna. In Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun **When:** October 28, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187



Activities

2004 British Ball Beijing

The annual British Ball. Each ticket includes cocktails (including Moet et Chandon Champagne), reception, hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet 4-course dinner, wines and spirits throughout the evening, late night snacks, a "Survivor's Breakfast", imported live entertainment, a goodie bag, a farewell orchid gift for the ladies and entry in the Grand Lucky Draw.

Dress code: Black Tie and orchids. Tables will be sold in formats of ten persons, at 8,000 yuan per table or 800 yuan per person.

Where: Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel **When:** October 24, 7 pm **Tel:** 8529 6272

Jams

New York Jungle Brothers

Jungle Brothers, the leading rap group of the Native Tongues movement, will bring the best hip-hop live to Beijing.

Where: Club Tango, 79 Hepingli Xijie **When:** Saturday, 10 pm – 4 am **Admission:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 6428 2288



TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
22 Friday	
Star Trek Nemesis	11:50 pm
23 Saturday	
Old School	9 pm
24 Sunday	
Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines	8 pm
25 Monday	
Money Train	9 pm
26 Tuesday	
The Ring	8:05 pm
27 Wednesday	
Analyze That	11:40 pm
28 Thursday	
About Schmidt	9 pm

CCTV-9	
Monday – Friday	
Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates /	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm
Saturday	
Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am
Sunday	
Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am
China Radio International 91.5 FM	
Monday – Friday	
Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Musique Sans Frontières	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

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By Zhang Jianzhong

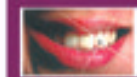
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Trek To the South-west Snow Mountains

By Sheng Minging

The snow-capped mountains of north-western Yunnan, with their ever-changing climate and spectacular scenery offer an enchanting opportunity for adventure and sightseeing. The region is not only a magnet for botanists and zoologists, but also attracts growing numbers of ordinary travelers, who swarm here in spring, summer and autumn to marvel at the beauty of nature.

Yulong Snow Mountain

Photos by Imaginechina

Meili Snow Mountain

The pyramid-shaped Meili Snow Mountain stands 10 kilometers west of Deqin in Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, 850 kilometers from Kunming. Also known as the Prince of Snow Mountains, it is one of the holiest mountains for Tibetan Buddhists, and almost always shrouded in mist and mystery.

The main peak of Meili Mountain is called Kang Karpo Peak, which, at 6,740 meters, is the highest in Yunnan. Surrounded by 13 lesser peaks all over 6,000 meters high, Kang Karpo Peak looks as if it is sheathed in gold when the rising sun catches it with its rays.

Legend has it that the peak is the incarnation of a Tibetan god who helped local Tibetans drive away an evil spirit. Each autumn, thousands of Tibetan pilgrims trek to this legendary peak.

Although man long ago conquered Qomolangma (known in the West as Mount Everest), Kang Karpo Peak, protected by perpendicular cliffs and a treacherous climate, has never been climbed. Since 1902, mountaineers from China, Great Britain, the US and Japan all have failed to conquer the summit. In 1991, 17 mountaineers from China and Japan lost their lives while trying to reach the peak.

Kang Karpo remains mysterious and elusive to most visitors not only for being a virgin peak, but also because it is constantly shrouded in clouds and mist. If you have the time and the patience, however, the spectacular view of the mountain is definitely worth waiting for.

Below Kang Karpo Peak, the Mingyong Glacier and the Sinong Glacier stretch down to the forest at an elevation of 2,700 meters, only 800 meters above the surface of the Lancang River. The combination of glaciers and monsoonal climate is a geographical rarity.

A one-hour trip by donkey along the Mingyong Glacier takes one to the Prince Temple, an important place



of worship on the mountain for Tibetans. Outside the temple are several large *mani* mounds of flags with colorful religious inscriptions. On the southern side of the main peak, a waterfall tumbles a breathtaking 1,000 meters.

The best season for visiting Meili Mountain is from January to May, when the snow-capped peaks, dense forests and vast grasslands are augmented with beautiful wild flowers. The rainy season from June through August makes the trail muddy and difficult. From mid-October to mid-November the region is covered with marvelous autumn colors. Winter is cold, and heavy snowfalls often block roads and isolate the region for weeks or months at time.

There are two pilgrimage routes around Meili Mountain. It takes four to five days to complete the inner route from Deqin to Mingyong, Xidang, and finally Yubeng villages.

Along the route the Feilai Temple and the Prince Temple offer spectacular views of Meili Mountain's 13 peaks, the sacred waterfall, the Mingyong Glacier and the magnificent scenery of sunrise and sunset, as well as the gorges of the Lancang River.

The outer pilgrimage circuit takes 8 to 12 days to complete. Both routes these days attract more and more hikers.

Yulong Snow Mountain

Yulong (Jade Dragon) Snow Mountain, 15 kilometers north-west of Lijiang, is the southernmost mountain capped with snow all year round in the Northern Hemisphere.

Lying in the southern section of the Hengduan Mountains, the main peak, Shanzidou, is 5,596 meters above sea level, awesome and still unconquered. Altogether there are 13 peaks along the range with altitudes of at least 4,000 meters, stretching for over 35 kilometers from south to north and 25 kilometers from west to east.

Viewed from afar, the snow-capped, fog-enlaced range is said to resemble a silver dragon lying in the mist, curling up its middle, hence, the name Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. The Naxi people who inhabit the area hold Yulong Mountain as a sacred mountain, and San Duo, a legendary hero and protector of the Naxi people, as the mountain god. It now is a famous scenic spot for sightseeing, mountaineering, skiing, exploration and scientific research.

Described as a "Natural Glacier Museum" for its many types of glacier, Yulong Mountain boasts glaciers that were formed 70 million years ago. It is also a treasure house of wild plants and home to 59 rare birds and animals, as well as "a flower kingdom that was old when the Gardens of Babylon were new," decorated with blooming flowers for 10 months of the year.

Take a bus ride into the mountains, and the first alpine meadow you encounter is the Ganhaizi Grassland, a popular tourist resort on the eastern slope of Yulong Mountain and also an ideal spot to view the mountain.

A cable car near the Baishui River carries visitors up the mountain. It can get very cold up on the top, so be sure you dress appropriately.

Down from the mountaintop one can see rivers and pools, which are formed by the snow-melt running along the valley and through the forests. Plants and the animals differ according to the altitude, as does the view. On the alpine meadows of the lower slopes, lonely herders sing to their goats and set echoes flying with the music of their reed pipes. On the eastern slope is the Spruce Meadow Tourist Cableway and a ski field.

The best season for visiting Yulong Mountain is spring and summer. From April to June the azaleas turn the mountain into a riot of brilliant color, while in autumn, blue gentian flowers cover the marshlands.

Haba Snow Mountain



Haba Snow Mountain stands 120 kilometers to the southeast of Zhongdian, the county seat of Shangri-La, opposite Yulong Mountain, with the famous Tiger-leaping Gorge in between.

The main peak is 5,396 meters above sea level, tall and straight, aloof and proud, with four surrounding lesser peaks. It looks like an imperial crown, flashing silver reflections that can be seen from far away. Following changes in the weather, the appearance of the snow peak can change unpredictably.

Below the peak is a nature reserve, of which the area over

4,000 meters above sea level is all abrupt cliffs and snow peaks, rugged stone beaches and glaciers. The topography is gentler below the 4,000-meter mark. Crystal-clear glaciers hang on the mountainside and the valleys on the northern side are dotted with numerous alpine moraine lakes, the most beautiful of which is Heihai Lake.

The nature reserve extends 22 kilometers from south to north and 19 kilometers from east to west. Known as "the kingdom of alpine animals and plants" and "the world's gene bank for decorative plants," it has the largest variety of animals and plants anywhere in China. The period between June and August is the best visiting season for Haba Mountain – millions of azaleas come into bloom, flaming when viewed from afar. One of the most unusual things about this spot is that you can walk on the flowers without crushing them!

There are also many waterfalls here. Tumbling down the north-eastern side of the mountain is the Great Hanging Water, which is more than 200 meters high and pours down with a breathtaking momentum.

Jiaozi Snow Mountain



Located in Luquan County and covering an area of over 100 kilometers, Jiaozi (Sedan Chair) Snow Mountain is 188 kilometers north of Kunming. The main peak, rising 4,223 meters above sea level, resembles a

sedan chair, hence its name.

Jiaozi Snow Mountain is the nearest snow mountain to Kunming. Take a five-hour car ride to Luquan County at the foot of mountain, and then switch to horse or walk to the Base Camp to stay overnight. Trekking into the mountains, you will find unparalleled scenery of vertical cliffs, frozen lakes, snowfields, virgin forests, alpine meadows, poetic "sky ponds," and rare wild plants and animals.

When May arrives, the azaleas come into bloom, turning the mountain into a flaming sea of color. October to April is the best time to visit the mountain for its breathtaking scenery of frozen lakes, frozen waterfalls, ice fogs and snowfields, as well as for skiing.

Transportation and accommodation:

Meli Mountain: There are commuter buses from Shangri-La (Zhongdian) to Deqin and from Deqin to Mingyong, Xidang, and Yubeng villages. Comfortable hotels can be easily found in the villages with prices ranging from 20-60 yuan. But the best way to really appreciate this spot is to hire a car.

Yulong Mountain: If you prefer to travel independently, take the No. 7 bus from Xin Dajie, in Lijiang. It stops at all the tourism spots along the route, such as Ganhaizi, Baishui River and Spruce Meadow. The fare is 8 yuan from Lijiang to Spruce Meadow. There are two buses daily.

Haba Snow Mountain: It is a one-day bus ride from Shangri-La, and there is comfortable and inexpensive accommodation available on the mountain.

Jiaozi Snow Mountain: It is five hours by road from Kunming to Luquan, at the foot of mountain. Bus fares are about 30 yuan. From Luquan ride a horse or walk to the Base Camp to stay overnight.

Tips: Take sun block and good ultraviolet-proof sunglasses. The sun's rays are especially strong at high altitude. Locally available Tibetan herbal medicine called *Hong Jing Tian* works well to prevent or minimize the effects of altitude sickness.

English-speaking Tibetan guides can be hired in Deqin, Zhongdian, for around 80-120 yuan per day.

Oxygen bags are available for rent for 20 yuan per bag on the mountains.